WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 4 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | AUGUST 1999

"The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution that has to start with each one of us." Dorothy Day

Cable Franchise Agreement

Re-Negotiate With The Public In Mind

Clint Burelson

There will be a unique opportunity for citizens of Olympia to substantially influence the cost, availability, and content of media that they receive in their homes. The Franchise Agreement between the City of Olympia and AT&T/TCI allows for the City to receive certain concessions from the cable company in exchange for the use of our streets to lay their cable. Thurston County Television (TCTV) is one of the results of previous negotiations. TCTV produces public access television in which people in the county have the opportunity to share their views with each other on cable television. In addition, we also receive government programming like the broadcast of City Council meetings. The Franchise agreement is only open at certain times and the contract often lasts several years. Negotiations between the city and AT&T/TCI are open this year and so now is the time to participate in improving the agreement.

One improvement that I would like to see is free access to the public access, educational, and government programs (often referred to as the PEG channels). Every cable company is required to provide public access, educational, and government channels as part of their offerings. Currently in Olympia, residents must pay for the basic cable in order to receive the PEG channels. In some towns, like Shrewsbury Massachusetts, and Reading Pennsylvania, residents receive the PEG channels for free. The only cost is the initial installation fee.

There are a number of reasons to support free PEG channels. Here are some of them:

1. Democracy requires an informed citizenry. Access to information, especially from their government should be free. Democracy is harmed if access to relevant information is determined by one's wealth.

2. Some people do not want commercial channels, for a variety of reasons, but want to watch TCTV, information from their government and educational programs. Many of these people, while perhaps having the money, do not want to receive commercial channels and do not want to pay for them.

3. Democracy requires the ability of citizens to have equal opportunity to present their views. The owners of

(Continued page 6)

One improvement that I would like to see is free access to the public access, educational, and government programs (often referred to as the PEG channels).

OCAD Begins Initiative Campaign to Strengthen Local Democracy

Jeff Sowers

The U.N. reports that the worlds biggest businesses are 1.Arms 2.Drugs 3.Oil and transportation. Locally, we see our ecological systems being consumed, the salmon dying, and open space disappearing. The reason for this is obvious: GREED. A few big corporations, developers, and wealthy people make big bucks and the rest of us suffer the consequences. Unfortunately, it's those that make the big bucks that also pull the puppet strings of our so called representatives.

Imagine that instead of relying on representatives and the MONEY POWER they most often represent, that we, the people, made the most important decisions that determined our collective fate. Then the world's biggest businesses would likely be 1.Shelter 2.Food 3.Clothing: things that actually satisfy the needs of the many rather than the GREED of the few. With true democracy we could act successfully to protect open space, end subsidies to developers, and channel growth in ways that does not harm the community and its natural heritage.

The Olympia Teledemocracy Initiative makes a significant step toward empowering the local citizenry to do just that. It will allow thousands of members of our community to directly participate in deciding critical government policies. What's more, it allows the community to decide what's important and set priorities. This would be a true historic event in the history of democracy, both locally and globally. "A major step in the right direction", according to Dr. Ted Becker, a leader in the global democracy movement, author, and political science professor at Auburn University.

If enacted into law, it will establish a local advisory initiative process. Citizens registered as "Televoters" will be assigned a PIN number(so they can only vote once), and vote by phone on advisory measures called "advisory televotes". Advisory means the results do not force elected representatives to act. By collecting 250 signatures citizens will be able to call advisory televotes on any issue they feel is important enough for the community to address.

Making the process advisory allows us far more freedom in the kinds of issues we can vote on(from local to international), and it allows us to use telephone voting, which is far cheaper than conventional voting, and far more convenient for citizens to use. After citizens are comfortable televoting on a variety of advisory measures, the next logical step would be to make the voting non-advisory, or binding.

This advisory televoting process will provide citizens a powerful tool of democracy. It will enable citizens(like us!) to have a stronger voice and presence in political decision making. It will also enable representatives(local, state, and national) to communicate better with the local public, which will lead to better representation.

Currently, under the control of powerful corporations and moneyed inter-

(Continued page 6)

By collecting 250 signatures citizens will be able to call advisory televotes on any issue they feel is important enough for the community to address.

Tree Village Wins Support

by Leon Janssen

Support for the Cascadia Defense Network (CDN) tree village in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest has been growing and gaining some unlikely allies. Since Monday July 12th, CDN has been occupying Watch Mt., which, along with Fossil Creek will be traded away to Plum Creek Timber Company in the I-90 Land Exchange. This timber swap has multiple problems which affect the local communities involved, and highlights the faults of the federal land exchange program in general. This has resulted in an interesting array of support for a radical environmental presence in the heart of timber country.

Watch Mt. is located directly above the town of Randle, a small logging town along Route 12, an hour and a half southeast of Olympia, south of Mt. Rainier; Fossil Creek is located further south, just southwest of Mt. St. Helens, near the town of Cougar. Watch Mt. is very special to many people in Randle, who use their own "backyard wilderness" to hike, pick mushrooms, hunt, and ride off-road vehicles.

The tree village includes one 150 foot high "doughnut" platform encircling the trunk of a giant douglas-fir tree, and a second platform suspended in the center of a ring of trees. Some residents have been bringing food up to the basecamp, and some of the local high school students are considering learning to climb up to the tree platforms. One man, nicknamed Santa Claus (complete with a big red van), has been helping by donating tools, lumber and supplies, while a local career timber worker named Wayne has brought his kids up to the camp to visit, talk to the people in the tree platforms, and drop off dry firewood. It is clear that the people of Randle do not want their backyard clearcut and sprayed with herbicides by Plum Creek Timber Co.

The Cascadia Defense Network is a coalition of Olympia Earth First!, Seattle Earth First!, and other direct-action focused environmental groups.

As the CDN strengthens the encampment on Watch Mt., the Gifford Pinchot Task Force is working on legal and political strategies to

(Continued page 12)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net

Back Issues:

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We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Aug. 20th

Potluck Meeting at Priest Point Park - 6pm at the swings

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, August 24th
7pm at the Olympia Library

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Letters & Briefs

"A Theological Proof"

To the editors:

It occurs to me that most readers of this fine periodical do not know (or may have forgotten) that the Gray's Harbor County courthouse in Montesano, cloven in twain in the recent earthquake, was the site of one of the most important trials in US labor history.

On November 11, 1919, down in Centralia, an attempt to massacre members of the Industrial Workers of the World resulted in the death of three American Legionnaires and a leading member of the local business community, and the brutal beating, tar and feathering, castration and lynching of Wobbly Wesley Everest. The remaining IWW's were put on trial in the then new courthouse in Montesano. After much intimidation of the jury, an insane verdict of conspiracy to commit second degree (unpremeditated!) murder was returned. (The law is sometimes a blunt instrument). These eight brave men, one of whom had been driven insane by the terror of having Wesley's mutilated body left in front of his cell most of the night, remained in state prison for twenty years. None of the businessmen or Legionnaires who planned and instigated the event were ever charged. Go get Ralph Chaplin's book *The Centralia Conspiracy* and read about it.

So now, eighty years later, this same courthouse is irreparably damaged by an earthquake. I say it's God's vengeance. Maybe because I was talking to some Jehovah's Witnesses earlier today. But why did it take so long? Simple—God lives 40 light years away and news from earth gets there slow and retribution takes a while to come back. But if I'm right we should start seeing a steady stream of it pretty soon, so get ready! For the whole darn Pie!! Free Mumia! Free Leonard (and let him see the doctor)!

—The Ol' Mole (We NEVER Forget)

¡Presente!

A Radio Show hosted by Worker In Progress Wendy Ortiz: listen on Saturday, August 7 and Sat. Aug. 21 from 6-8pm, and every other Saturday thereafter. ***¡Presente!*** brings you interviews with women of color activists, upcoming activist calendar of events, social justice perspectives from women of color, local activist news, plus great music ranging from acid jazz to punk to polka to hip hop and more. If you would like to publicize your event on this show, please e-mail <wip@olywa.net> or leave a note in Box #3 at the KAOS studio at the Evergreen State College.

End Corporate Dominance Study Group

Are you tired of incremental reforms that always seem to be playing catch-up to the corporations? Frustrated that the Regulatory Circus is working all too well at sucking energy away from the underlying issues? Are you mad that any good laws that are made can be easily struck down by a Coca-Congress? Then its time to step out of the non-profit rut and rethink the way we do things.

In this study group we will be examining the topics: "From the Railroad Land Grants to the WTO, the resistance to corporate power: Past, Present, and Future...." The purpose of this group is to educate ourselves so that we might then become educators. We'll discuss different aspects of corporate rights and "sovereignty", the populist movement and what led to their downfall, the gradual usurpation of the legal system by corporations, and an examination of the arenas of authority we still control.

The group will meet regularly every two weeks, and all are encouraged to attend. Bring passion, curiosity, and a dedication to effective, long term change. The first reading material will be a short article by Jane Ann Morris of Program on Corporations, Law, and Democracy entitled "Help, I've been colonized and I can't get up!" For copies, call Leon @ 866-7429 or email at culturejamming@hotmail.com **First meeting: Wed. August 4th @ 7:30 pm at 3324 Overhulse Rd. NW** (Turn onto Kaiser Rd. heading toward the evergreen dorms, at the stop sign, make a right onto Overhulse. Take the first road on right-Rainwood St.- the house is the first one on the left.)

CLIP Garage Sale

CLIP is planning a garage sale

(Continued page 15)

The Capitol Theater in Downtown Olympia

Olympia FILM SOCIETY

To receive a program or get information about shows, show times, locations, and prices call 754-6670.

SOUTH SOUND GREEN PAGES

South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper

Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.

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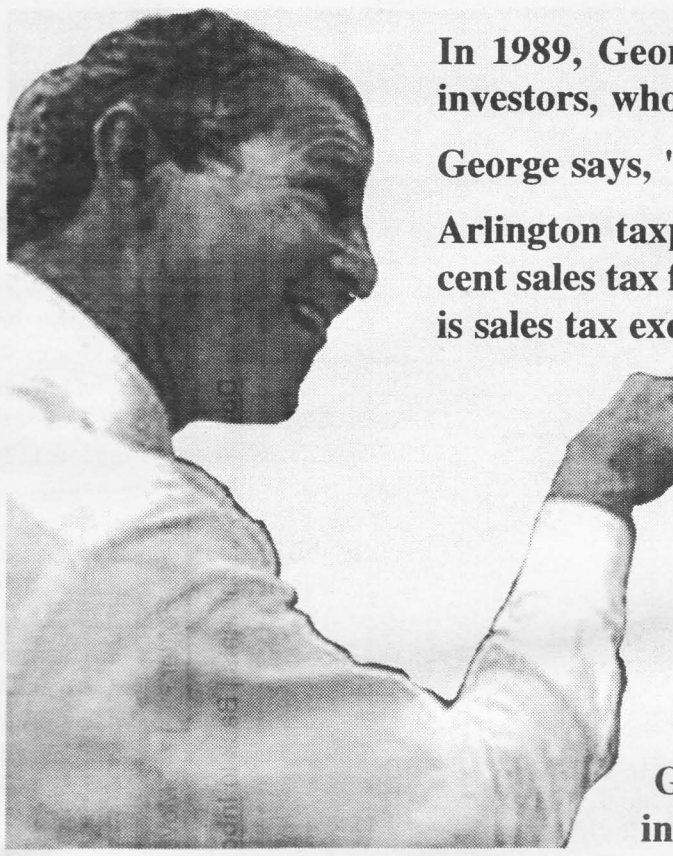
AUGUST 1999

Governor George W. Bush, Jr.'s

Excellent Adventure



In 1989, George invests $600,000 in the Texas Rangers with a group of Ohio investors, who pay a sale price total of $54 million.

George says, "Now wouldn't it be great to build a new ballpark!"

Arlington taxpayers contribute $135 million. Well, they will after paying a half cent sales tax for 12-15 years. (Interestingly everything purchased for the stadium is sales tax exempt.)

The city of Arlington donates land, spends $7.3 million condemning 12.5 acres.

The ballpark is completed in 1994 along with a property tax exemption.

In January 1999, George and partners sell the Texas Rangers to a banker (who just happens to be George's biggest '98 campaign contributor) for $250,000,000.

George's take is $14.9 million. Only $2.7 million is for his original investment. The rest ($12.2 million) is a bonus for helping to assemble the "ownership team" back in 1989.

Data Source: Dallas Observer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **1998**: Report states UV solar rays causes skin damage **1998**: The Olympia City Council votes to oppose I-200	**2** **1998**: U.S. Justice Department reports nation's adult prison population grew to more than 1.2 million in 1997	**3** **1998**: Iraq/UN talks break down **1998**: Lacey Cinemas begins showing "open-captioned" movies **1998**: US West strike	**4** **1996** - Hemp Education Day held at the Capitol Campus. More than 200 attended. **1998**: Dow Jones plunges 299.43 points	**5** **1998**: Iraq says it will no longer cooperate with UN weapons inspectors and demands UN sanctions, imposed in 1991, end	**6** **1998**: Lewinsky testifies she had several sexual liaisons with President Clinton **1998**: United Nations rejects Iraq's demands	**7** **1934**: Court of Appeals bans ban of James Joyce's *Ulysses* **1998**: Bombings at US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania kill 234
8 **1974**-Nixon announces resignation **1996** - State Supreme Court upholds WA's"three strikes, you're out" law	**9** **1936**-Jesse Owens wins 4 Olympic Gold Metals in Berlin **1848**-Free-Soil Party (abolitionists) organized	**10** **1998**: UN suspends inspections of Iraqi arms sites in response to Baghdad's refusal to cooperate with weapons monitors.	**11** **1998**: Dow Jones plunges 258 points **1998**: British Petroleum announces $14.15 billion merger with Amoco	**12** **1998**: Jewish groups, Swiss banks, lawyers for Holocaust survivors reach $1.2 billion settlement for assets lost in World War II	**13** **1998**: CDC report claims one in five teenagers carries a weapon or drives after drinking and one in 10 has attempted suicide	**14** **1998**: Fed appeals court: FDA has no authority to regulate tobacco **1998**: Candace Gingrich comes to Olympia
15 **1997**: Justice Dept fails to find sufficient evidence to support further prosecutions of high-ranking FBI officials for Ruby Ridge	**16** **1936**: Fascist in Spain took no prisoners upon capture of Badajoz on Portugese border. 1,200 Loyalists executed by firing squad.	**17** **1998**: Clinton admits relationship w/ Lewinsky before grand jury and nation **1998**: Russia floats ruble	**18** **1997** - UPS and the Teamsters Union reach a tentative agreement **1998**: Rep. Paul McHale (D, PA) calls for Clinton to resign	**19** **1890**: The D.A.R. is established **1997** - Nike eyes Thurston/Pierce counties for future office and factory sites	**20** **1998**: U.S. missiles hit Sudanese factory and a compound in Afghanistan the U.S. claims where bin Laden is present	**21** **1997**: WA Women's Ed. Foundation report shows 11 %of women 16-64 live below poverty line and 16% of women 75 or older
22 **1998**: Clinton puts bin Laden on terrorist list **1998**: Sheriff Edwards says shoot cougars on sight; WA Game Dept says license is needed	**23** **1998**: CNN's Late Edition reports that nothing has been found at the bombed Sudan factory but commerical pharmaceuticals	**24** **1997**: Justice Dept reports number people treated in emergency rooms for injuries sustained from domestic violence is rising	**25** **1998**: US says plant bombed in Sudan was working with Iraq to make nerve gas **1998**: 800 Nat'l Guard sent to Neah Bay	**26** **1998**: Linda Evans vows to fight proposed 300-foot cellular tower near her Rainer home **1998**: Justice Dept reopens MLK Jr murder	**27** **1996**: Phi Delta Kappa educational society releases national survey: most Americans (60%) oppose tuition vouchers for private schools	**28** **1998**: The Dow Jones drops 114 points **1998**: President Clinton says he has become an expert in asking forgiveness
29 **1997** - Men with axes slit throats/decapitate 300+ people of Rais, small Algerian village **1998**: No protesters attend Makah Days	**30** **1997**: Princess Diana is killed in a car crash **1998**: US West Strike settled after 15 days involving 34,000 phone workers	**31** **1998**: Dow falls 512. 61 points **1998:** Duma rejects Yelsin's premier nominee; Yelsin immediately renominates him	**The rich eat when they want to, the poor when they can.** Jewish Proverb			

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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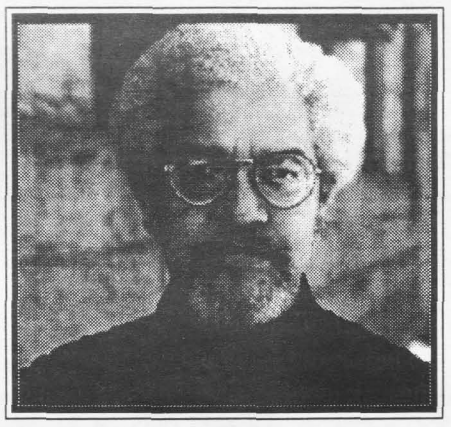
26	27	28	29	30		

Along the Color Line

The Power of Nonviolent Protest



Dr. Manning Marable

In a small Indian village in the highlands of Chiapas state, Mexico, an incredible event occurred recently that was reminiscent of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the desegregation campaigns across the South during the 1960s.

For five years, Mexican government troops have battled against the Zapatista rebels in Chiapas. Since December 1995, the Zapatistas have controlled the mayor's office and town hall of San Andre's Larrainzar, a rural village. In April 1999, the Mexican government decided to seize the town hall by force. Three hundred state police officers, fully armed, invaded the town hall, overpowering only two Zapatistas who had been guarding the building.

The next day, 1000 Zapatistas and their supporters, all unarmed, gathered into three long columns and marched into the center of town. There they confronted about 150 armed police in riot gear. The protestors had no weapons, not even rocks or sticks. But together, they shouted and marched forward, pushing the police out from the town hall. Government officials later claimed that the police had retreated "to avoid a confrontation with furious demonstrators." No injuries, deaths, or arrests had been reported. And the Zapatistas had made their point: the village was back under their control.

Both Dr. King and Mohandas Gandhi believed in the power of nonviolent protest. They saw that it was a practical and effective method of protest, especially when confronted by an opponent possessing much greater firepower and resources. Civil disobedience takes tremendous courage and discipline. It endeavors to make the agents of authority to question their orders, to recognize the inhumanity or illegitimacy of their actions. It seeks to achieve justice without the loss of human life on either side.

Several days ago, on the other side of the world, a similar protest was organized in Palestine, called the 'Day of Rage." Palestinian activists wanted to send a clear message to newly elected Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak that they would not tolerate the expansion of Zionist settlements in the Palestinian territory, or West Bank. Several thousand Palestinians took part in coordinated demonstrations that were designed not to provoke an armed military confrontation with Israeli soldiers. In Jerusalem, Palestinians organized a general strike. In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian protestors blocked the main thoroughfare near a Zionist settlement. In Hebron, the Palestinian protestors marched through the Jewish section of town to denounce a Zionist housing project.

In the years of the Intifada, from 1987 to 1994, thousands of Palestinian teenagers and young adults were brutally killed,wounded, and imprisoned by Israeli authorities. Hopes for a meaningful settlement were delayed with the electoral victory of Benjamin Netanyahu and his reactionary Likud party coalition government. But with the victory of Labor last month, there is the real possibility that the Israelis may finally begin to implement the agreements they promised regarding autonomy for the Palestinian people. Pressure is necessary to push these negotiations process forward, and that is what nonviolent demonstrations may help to accomplish.

Nonviolent direct action protest techniques need to be taught to our young people in our churches, mosques, community centers, and at institutions across the country.

In the aftermath of the murder of Amadou Diallo, over 1,200 people were arrested in civil disobedience demonstrations in New York City.The protests were not designed to destroy public property or to physically harass or attack the police. The purpose was to arouse the conscience of the larger community to the immorality and injustices represented by police brutality cases such as Amadou Diallo's. Although Mayor Rudolph Guiliani repeatedly attempted to denigrate the objectives of the nonviolent protestors, his contemptuous and arrogant behavior turned many of his political allies against him. Hastily, the New York Police Department (NYPD) transferred some black and Hispanic cops into the Street Crimes Unit, which had been responsible for Diallo's death. Days ago, I even received a call from an NYPD lieutenant requesting my assistance in organizing curricula and selecting textbooks that could train police officers to become more racially and culturally tolerant. The police harassments and stops-and-frisks of young black teenagers seem to have declined in the past two months. The lesson is clear: nonviolent protests around an important moral or just cause that has broader meaning for the majority of people can change public policies.

People frequently define politics as "the art of the possible." For the oppressed, politics must be the struggle to achieve what others perceive as "the impossible." Our primary criteria for successful politics should not be whether our candidates get elected, but whether we have lifted the political discourse of this nation, in such a manner that real problems and viable solutions are being addressed. If we confine our notions of politics solely to voting, we may be able to replace Tweedledum with Tweedledee, but we'll never transform the system as a whole.

Nonviolent direct action protest techniques need to be taught to our young people in our churches, mosques, community centers, and at institutions across the country. We need to reproduce Diallo-like civil disobedience demonstrations at hundreds of police stations and city halls throughout this country. To paraphrase the great abolitionist Frederick Douglass, "Without struggle there is no progress." •

Harassing & Policing the Poor

Barbara Ransby

A new law in Michigan seeks to further punish, police and humiliate the state's poor population. It sets a dangerous precedent for other states.

In October, Michigan will begin a pilot program to drug test new welfare applicants at three random locations. If they test positive, they will be asked to enroll for treatment. Those who refuse to be tested or treated will lose their benefits. Already eligible recipients at these locations will also be randomly tested and treated the same way.

Michigan's Republican Gov. John Engler has become notorious forhisanti-poor policies. This move adds to that reputation. It represents aviolation of the basic civil rights of poor people and reinforces the assumption that poverty equals drug addiction and criminality. Since more than25 percent of blacks and Latinos are poor, as compared to 11 percent of whites, the growing discrimination against the poor reflects both a class and a racial bias.

This new policy presumes all poor people are drug users until they are proven innocent. It denies the reality of many welfare recipients who don't use drugs.

It also gives unfair privilege to rich drug users, who don't get hauled in by the state for random tests. Many people in this country receive state benefits. Why are only welfare recipients randomly tested?

Michigan is just looking for another way to cut more people from its welfare rolls. Government social workers used to interrogate single mothers on welfare about their dating and sexual behavior. Now they'll be doing it about drug use.

Companies receive more than $100 billion a year in tax breaks and subsidies from the public. That's where there is money to be saved. But do the CEOs have to pass a drug test before they get public money?

Yes, some drug addicts are poor. And, yes, some poor people use drugs. It should not be surprising that poverty sometimes encourages the desire for numbness or escape. But this doesn't mean these individuals don't deserve food and shelter. Nor does it mean they should be deprived of their presumption of innocence.

This policy imposes a higher standard of morality for the poor than for the rest of us. Our president has admitted that he tried marijuana, which did not block him from rising in the ranks of national politics. Why should poor people be persecuted for behavior that others with more financial resources can readily conceal?

Michigan's new policy is only one of a number of new efforts at the state and municipal level around the country that serve to criminalize the poor. They include laws against public loitering or begging and public-nuisance ordinances directed specifically at the homeless. They also includeanti-gangpolicies, such as the one just passed in Cicero, Ill., which bans anyone with a gang affiliation from the town.

Some people argue that taxpayers should not subsidize the habits of drug users. If someone is a convicted drug user, fine. But to treat every welfare applicant as a drug user is to shred our civil rights.

And if the concern is really about squandering tax dollars, there are bigger culprits than welfare recipients. Companies receive more than$100billion a year in tax breaks and subsidies from the public. That's where there is money to be saved. But do the CEOs have to pass a drug test before they get public money?

It's morally indefensible to criminalize, humiliate and treat as suspect a whole sector of the population simply because it is low-income and dares to ask for public assistance.

Poverty is punishment enough for its innocent victims. To erode their basic rights as citizens should be an outrage to all of us.

Barbara Ransby is an assistant professor of African-American studies and history at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Copyright Barbara Ransby. All rights reserved. Progressive Media Project 409 E. Main Street Madison, WI 53703 (608)257-4626 •

Up Front

Time to Walk Our Talk

Jerome Johnson

There's something interesting happening in the black community these days. My roommate and I were watching Kweisi Mfume talking to the NAACP the other day. Mfume was railing about the paucity of black people in the big networks' fall TV schedule, calling it a whitewash. My roommate shook her head sorrowfully. "That's a damned shame," she said. "There was a time when blacks had their own businesses." Her tone turned wistful. "Our own hotels, filling stations, stores, restaurants. We took care of each other."

I looked at her, incredulous. I'd heard echoes of this sentiment before from older black folks, this wistful nostalgia for the old Jim and Jane Crow days. I couldn't believe my ears. These were times when black poeple's lives were worth the price of a bullet or a length of rope. A time when we couldn't get jobs, housing, education, health care, or a chance at a future. A time when we couldn't vote or hold office. I said as much to my roommate, and we began to talk.

She explained that it wasn't really a longing for the bad old days. But she noted the fast decline of black schools, colleges, businesses, service organizations. Even worse was the loss of our values and culture, the blocks which had created a class of leaders like A. Phillip Randolph, Martin Luther King, Ella Baker, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, Thurgood Marshall, Jesse Jackson, Cornel West, Malcolm X, Maxine Waters, et. al. She rightly pointed out that even I myself was a product of those "old school" values (although we both agreed with smiles that I'll never be in the class of the giants just noted). It wasn't the oppression that was missed, she explained, but the loss of community. She said that with the new black middle and upper classes, there is no reason for black America to remain in crisis as it does today. She sharply criticized parents who haven't taught routine ABC/3R's, noting that she herself had taught me to read, as is traditional for black folks. "Now," she said bitterly, "we depend on white teachers who don't understand the challenges our kids face, and think that everything is just fine. And a lot of it's our fault because we don't teach our own children. Parents need to get busy, and BET needs to stop that rap and hip-hop bullshit and put on some educational programs."

I couldn't agree more. Neither my roommate nor I are black conservatives, as longtime readers of this column well know. The need for the Government to mandate civil rights and affirmative action is stronger than ever. With synagogues burning in California, white separatist racists marching in Enumclaw and Coeur D'Alene, and racist terrorism in the Midwest just last month alone, besides the routine racism endured by people of color every day, we must always maintain our vigilance and press Government to hold racists and other bigots fully accountable.

However, there is still the need to rebuild our communities. Since I hate hypocrisy, effective immediately, I am making an effort to do my part. Starting here, in Olympia, I will start a foundation-type organization to benefit the local black community. I'm going to cast down my bucket where I am. I'm going to ask local and national black celebrities to contribute at least $10 each — that's right, just $10 — to the foundation. The money will be used for scholarships, seed money for art projects, and any other projects that would help build the local black community. I'll publish the names of the contributors in a note of thanks.

I don't care how long it will take to do this. It'll take some time, because I still have to work my day job, but I am going to make this happen. I'm tired of hearing rich blacks — especially actors/actresses — bemoan the lack of roles and jobs and education and opportunities. If no one else will step up and say it, I will. Oprah, Griffey, Cosby, Jordan, and more can all expect fundraising letters from me. I expect most of them to refuse, giving one excuse or another. Okay. That's why we're where we are today, but their lack of support won't stop my efforts, only expose their lack of sense of community.

The money will be used for scholarships, seed money for art projects, and any other projects that would help build the local black community.

In the Kashmir, the guns slowly fall silent.

In Indonesia as well as East Timor, faint hopes for peace and democracy grow brighter.

In Enumclaw and Coeur D'Alene, courageous people — many of them white — face down neo-Nazis and other racists in the streets.

And in Thurston County, there is the smell of barbecue, the growl of construction/road repairs, and the laughter of children playing at the Heritage Park fountain. •

A GenerAsians survey asked 5,700 children, between the ages of 7 and 18, in 18 cities in 12 Asia-Pacific countries, about their activities, aspirations, food, drink and entertainment. The survey was sponsored by Turner Broadcasting's Cartoon Network, and conducted by ACNielsen in March and April of 1998.

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PHILIPPINES: Jollibee, Coca-Cola
SINGAPORE: McDonald's, Coca-Cola
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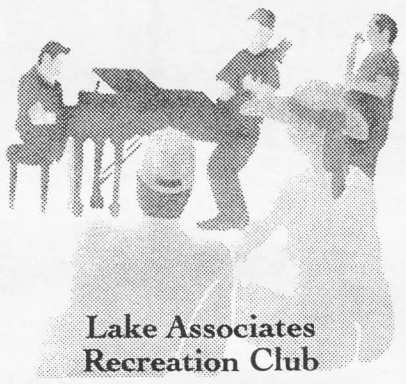

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(Democracy, continued)

ests, our representative institutions are failing us miserably. They are leading us down the path of ecological catastrophe, and massive human exploitation. Having little power to effect political outcomes, most people have retreated into a state of apathy or denial, choosing instead to focus on their personal lives. This further contributes to people seeing themselves as isolated consumers and maximizers of individual interests, unconnected and unconcerned with a larger and elusive common good.

At the core of the problem is the whole idea of representative democracy: that a political elite is better qualified than the people to decide major issues. It would be great if it worked, but it doesn't. It is precisely our reliance on representative institutions that allows corporations and the Money Power to dominate. The ways that this happens are obvious to everyone. The dominance of representative democracy is synonymous with corporate dominance. They go hand in hand. They are two sides of the same coin.

Let me qualify this by saying that by advocating for a direct, participatory democracy, I'm not suggesting eliminating representative institutions. Rather, it is a matter of subordinating them to more direct, participatory institutions. The dominant political power and the primary legislators ought to be the people themselves. By subordinating the representative institutions to the will of the people, so too may we subordinate corporate power.

True democracy is evolutionary. By empowering citizens it allows the community to evolve intellectually and spiritually. Not only do citizens learn by thinking about the issues they will vote on, but they learn by witnessing the outcomes of their decisions. This is exactly analogous to the transition from childhood to adulthood. The only way to teach people to make responsible choices is to give them responsibility.

However, none of this will happen without the help and support of local citizens. We have come a long way in drafting this ordinance with the assistance of local activists and experts from across the nation. We have laid the groundwork. Now the campaign must begin. Without the assistance of numerous citizens, both in time and money, we will not be able to collect the 5000 signatures we need to get on the ballot, and then run a successful campaign. Please, if you can, make a donation of time or money to the cause of genuine democracy. Support the Olympia Teledemocracy Initiative. •

(Cable Franchise, continued)

corporations control the vast majority of the information which we receive yet they are only a small percentage of the population. Public access television provides a small opportunity for the majority of the population to express their views and creative instincts. Some people would like to support public access television by making it free and thus accessible to more people, with the long-term goal of encouraging more participation in television made by the people and for the people.

The cable business has been very lucrative for the top cable owners. It has been referred to as "a license to print money." TCI especially, has made huge profits in the cable industry. The top 2 cable companies, AT&T/TCI and Time Warner, control the cable lines to almost 50% of the cable subscribers in the United States. The top five companies control almost 75% of the market. In 1992, only 1.5% of homes passed by cable had a choice of more than 1 cable operator.

The right to watch TCTV, government and educational programming for free, will increase democracy in our community and is worth supporting. AT&T which now owns TCI, the cable chain in our area, will likely resist entering in to such an agreement. It will take a considerable amount of input from people in the community to the Olympia City Council to convince them that they should push for free PEG channels in the face of resistance from a huge corporation like AT&T/TCI.

There are other suggestions for improving the Franchise Agreement being discussed which I will mention briefly. There is a big battle nationally over whether or not the cable provider should keep their lines open and available for any Internet provider to provide service to the people. Currently, the cable companies have been able to get away with controlling the lines and the provider service. For example, locally if you hook up with TCI's cable, you pay $40 for the line use and the @Home service provider. To use another service provider like Olywa.net or AOL you must pay their fee on top of the $40 you pay to TCI. The city of Portland wanted to keep the lines open to other providers without subscribers having to pay for @Home, as part of their franchise agreement with AT&T. The case went to court and the judge ruled in favor of Portland although that decision is being appealed.

Another idea for the franchise agreement is capital expenditures for TCTV to be able to function effectively in the new media being developed around the internet. It would be great if TCTV could provide web sites with video and audio capabilities for Thurston County non-profit organizations.

To get involved contact the City of Olympia or me at 357-6239 or clintburelson@juno.com •

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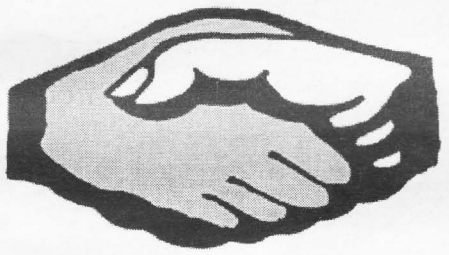

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Women Take *Notes*

Wendy C. Ortiz

Chance to receive a free copy of a book reviewed this month! Read on...

Patriarchy: Notes of an Expert Witness by Phyllis Chesler. Maine: Common Courage Press, 1994.

Surrogate motherhood or rental of a "surrogate uterus"? Insane women, or women coping with sexism, and all the other -isms through the ages? Female serial killers, or women responding normally to constant and extreme abuse? Phyllis Chesler takes on all these questions and more in her short book of powerful and personal essays *Patriarchy: Notes of an Expert Witness.*

In her introduction to the book, she eloquently describes herself as "the woman, who, in 1970...demanded one million dollars in reparations...from the assembled members of the American Psychological Association on behlaf of all those women who had never been helped by the mental health profession..." but instead were subject to the dehumanizing and often physically and sexually abusive atmospheres of institutions and asylums. Thus begins an intro for third wave feminists to the insightful and critical Chesler.

Patriarchy: Notes of an Expert Witness contains less than ten essays that manage to tear at the roots of exposed patriarchy in a way that is often not addressed among younger feminists. Her essays "Mothers on Trial", "The Men's Auxiliary" and "Marcia Rimland's Deadly Dilemma" focus on motherhood and the lack of power mothers have when it comes to custody of children, reproductive rights, and the renting of a uterus, or "surrogate" motherhood. Without apology, Chesler critiques liberal feminism and patriarchal institutions that either compromise or abolish women's rights.

Chesler informs readers in a way that inspires and incites action and deeper analysis.

In "Women of the Asylum", Chesler relates accounts of women hospitalized in psychiatric institutions and imparts a contemporary, radical feminist analysis of the degree in which women were punished for not adhering to rigid gender roles.

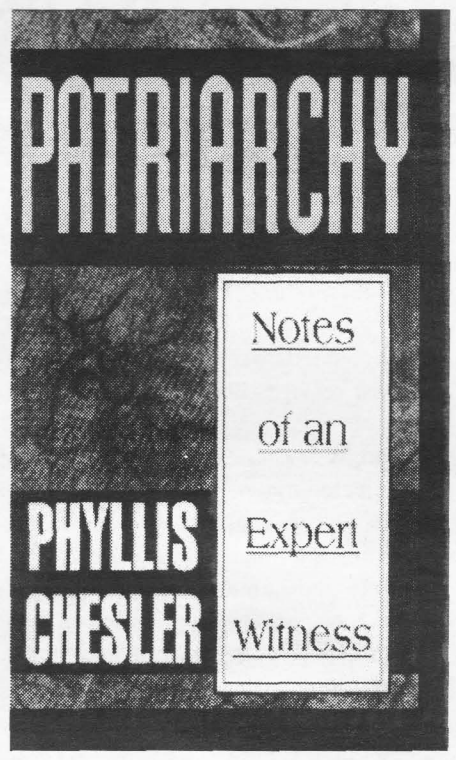
The longest piece, entitled "A Woman's Right to Self-Defense: The Case of Aileen Carol Wuornos" documents the selling of the serial killer label on Wuornos, who was a sexually and physically abused prostitute who maintained that she murdered in order to save her own life; a plea that is often reiterated when women are battered over long periods of time with no recourse nor relief.

"Sister, Fear Has No Place Here" documents the courage and steadfastness of the lesbian feminist Camp Sister Spirit, nestled in a homophobic and violent Mississippi.

Chesler's analysis often comes from a critical radical feminist standpoint. While her essays are powerful, I am hard-pressed to embrace them fully. My inherent third wave-ness tells me that Chesler's focus is narrower than I perceive the situations to actually be. Holistic views of oppression take into account the intersections between racism, sexism, homophobia, sizism, and more; Chesler's reading of oppression rests mainly on sexism and patriarchy.

However, this book of essays informs all women of the work that needs to be done around issues of women's mental and physical health, rights of mothers, and the toppling of patriarchal institutions. Chesler informs readers in a way that inspires and incites action and deeper analysis. For this, I am grateful for notes from "an expert witness." *Common Courage Press (800) 497-3207 or email: orders-info@commoncouragepress.com*

This book can be yours if you are the first new subscriber to mail in your check and order for a new year-long subscription to Works In Progress. Just add $1.50 for shipping and handling and Patriarchy: Notes of an Expert Witness is yours free for supporting alternative, independent media!



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An Ode to a Junkie

by Amy Levinson

Chelsea, may the demons that chased you, and finally consumed you
be forever put to rest
along with your body and your heart

You always deserved peace for your soul
And a place for your wayward heart
But you never found it, nor embraced the love that was given to you

It was offered by the many people whose lives and hearts you touched
The friends, lovers, kids, animals that saw in you
A bright light, the shining person you could have become

The only person who never saw it
Was yourself

You never accepted the fact that you deserved it
the love of friends, the caresses of lovers, the fondling of small
children's hands upon your bright hair and face, the black, black hair of
the dog all over your legs

Why did you not see it?
People were touched by your being
By your needs and your wants
By your acceptance of the way life is
By your lost soul
Your very lost soul
But a bright soul, that wanted to be found so bad

We tried to help you in your fall from grace
We wanted so bad to give you what you needed, what you deserved
The thing, the very thing that would save you
But we could not

Because, you never asked
You never let on what it was
What was it that you needed?

Because we did not know we could not save you
And now, we will never know.
You left us asking the question

What was it?
What demons diminished and finally extinguished you?

You join the ranks of those
Who were like you

The most amazing people are gathered together today with you
They sigh, like the wind in the trees and plants that you loved,
That you moved your hands through with care and tenderness,
Like you were touched by the very life inside of them, They join you in a place, a place where you are now.
These people are there now, the haunting sounds of them
Are joined by you.
And they sing: I lived, I touched,
And I will never be here again, never

I hear them sometimes, I have heard them since last year, and they sing
Help me, give me something for myself
Give me everything, erase the bad things out of me,
Cleanse me
Remove the demons, now
Accept me, love me, save me
Take me in your fucking arms and cradle me forever, like I was a baby
Being reborn

The people who they are, those that join you
the personalities, the cravings and needs they had
Their very being, the intangible presence that moves people who knew them,
They are gathered with you to provide you with solace
Because they are just like you

But they do not give us solace, the people who recognized you,
Knew you, but didn't Wanted you, but didn't

Loved you, but didn't
Recognized your burning potential, but didn't
Could have saved you....
But didn't

FIGHT THE POWER!! (Part 1 of a 4 part series)

The World Trade Organization Selects Seattle for its Third Ministerial

Sheryl Kakuta

From November 30th through December 3rd, the world's power brokers will meet at Seattle's Convention Center for the biannual World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial. They will discuss current trade issues and launch new and expanded negotiations to further liberalize the global economy. Heads of states, trade ministers and delegations from 134 countries will convene for what the Washington Council on International Trade is calling "the largest trade event ever held in the United States". It will be closed to the public.

Progressive activists from the Puget Sound and around the world are mounting a major opposition to the Ministerial and the WTO in its total inception. The majority of the American public and even many congress people are unaware of the WTO's existence. However, the livelihoods of many people beyond the boundaries of the U.S. have been severely impacted by WTO rules and legal decisions. In the future, it is sure to have serious economic consequences in the U.S.

The WTO is generally a bill of rights for corporations to batter down environmental and labor protections.

From now until the conference, the aim of this four-part series is to discuss the following questions and issues. What is the WTO? How did it come into existence? Under what conditions? Who benefits and who loses from its actions? What are the alternatives to our current economic system? What is the local community doing and how can people get involved?

Brief History of the WTO

The WTO came into being four years ago as the final outcome of the GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs), signifying profound change in international trade and, consequently, an even more grossly uneven distribution of wealth and environmental devastation. The WTO administers WTO trade agreements, facilitates future trade negotiations, settles trade disputes and monitors the trade policies of member nations. The WTO agreements cover the economic areas of agriculture, textiles and clothing, banking, telecommunications, government purchases, industrial standards, food sanitation regulations, services and intellectual property.

The WTO has panels composed of non-elected trade specialists who act as judges over economic issues, placing them beyond the reach of national sovereignty and popular control. This ensures that community interests will be subordinated to capital. There is no public input, no conflict of interest provisions and the decision-making is secret. In 100 cases, over the first four years at the WTO, all decisions by non-elected corporate panels have favored corporations over labor, public health, the environment and national sovereignty.

For example, in January of this year, a non-elected WTO panel ruled that the European Union could no longer give preferential treatment to banana imports from the Caribbean, potentially destroying the livelihood of 200,000 small farmers, most of whom are women. Under WTO rules, it is illegal to place a quota on imports from one region. The United States spearheaded this trade dispute on behalf of multinational giant Chiquita Banana, even though no bananas are produced in this country. Why then, you might ask, did the U.S. government pursue a trade dispute that it had absolutely nothing to do with? Answer - Chiquita CEO Carl Linder donated more than $500,000 in political contributions to both parties. Limiting imports because a country refuses to allow workers to organize would be seen as unfair treatment and subject to penalties.

In 1996, the European Union voted 366-0 to ban U.S. hormone-treated beef from Europe. In 1998, the WTO overturned the ban claiming the decision was a 'barrier to trade', thus jeopardizing the right of nations to limit the possible risks of cancer. (The U.S. is the only country in the world that allows hormone-treated beef and milk).

Under U.S. marine mammal protection legislation, imported shrimp to the U.S. had to be netted with turtle-excluder devices, saving an estimated 150,000 sea turtles a year. Pakistan, Malaysia and Thailand petitioned the WTO which ruled, again, that such devices were 'barriers to trade'. This was very similar to the tuna/dolphin disputes, in which special tuna nets that did not strangle dolphins supposedly created an uneven playing field.

These are only but a few of the many WTO rulings that actively work to jeopardize the rights of workers, public health and the environment. The WTO is generally a bill of rights for corporations to batter down environmental and labor protections.

The WTO Ministerial and Its Host Committee

The announcement to hold the third WTO Ministerial in Seattle came this March. The Seattle Host Organization (SHO), which is organizing the conference, is co-chaired by Bill Gates; Boeing CEO Phil Condit; Gov. Gary Locke; Seattle Mayor Paul Shell; King County Exec. Ron Simms, and; Seattle Port Commissioner Pat Davis. The Seattle Host Organization is currently trying to fundraise $9,000,000 for the Ministerial. Having some of the most powerful CEOs in the world as co-chairs apparently presents no conflict of interest.

A fundraising letter for the Ministerial signed on March 15th by SHO Chairman, Lawrence Parkson, attempted to sell access for the wealthy to senior trade officials. A mere $250,000 (Emerald Level) buys passes to opening and closing sessions, the Ministerial dinner, business conference participation, updates on progress of the Ministerial and numerous other benefits. Diamond, Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze Levels are also available. Alas, the beauty of one dollar, one vote. Those with money

(Continued next page)

STATEMENT FROM PEOPLE'S GLOBAL ACTION PROF. NANJUNDASWAMY AT THE WORLD ECONOMIC SUMMIT, COLOGNE, 6-16-99

"We have come here to build bridges between people who want to reclaim their future, to disobey the institutions that run the current, self-destructive system of global economic, political and military governance, and to take their own power in their hands in order to construct a different world. A world where local people are in control of their local economy, where centralized political and economic power disappear, where economic growth and increased consumption give way to quality of life and equality as social goals, where militarism and aggression become bad memories of the past.

"We do not want Western money, technologies or 'experts' to impose their development model on us. We also refuse to be used as political tools to ask the elites for reforms that we never demanded. We only want to organize our strength and combine it with the strength of other movements in the North and South in order to regain control over our lives. We are not working for a place on the global trade of negotiations, nor for a bloody revolution; we are just working on the long-term process of construction of a different world, a world which will come about from the local to the global from a shift in the values and everyday choices of millions of persons.

"However, we in the South feel that mere symbolic and isolated direct actions and similar efforts at building up peoples' alternatives are not enough to diminish the powers that run the New World Order and their hunger for dominance, especially in the context of their impending and expected efforts to introduce extended versions of 'free' trade agreements, to expand the power of transnational corporations and to strengthen their private ownership over life forms through the so-called Millennium Round set to start at the next WTO ministerial in Seattle."

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(WTO, continued)

have a voice, those without don't. The letter further stated that, "sponsors who sign on before May 1st will also be included in a July 'preparatory conference' in Seattle where the private sector will meet with senior U.S. trade officials to discuss priorities for the upcoming Round." Due to popular uproar over this blatant corruption and purchased access to the Ministerial, the July conference was canceled.

More recently, the Washington State Legislature appropriated $970,000 from the General Fund to the Seattle Host Organization for Ministerial expenses, including the building of facilities and provisioning of equipment. Gov. Locke was a very active participant in this lobbying exercise. Once again, hard earned tax dollars are subsidizing grandiose meetings for the rich. Subsidies for the rich and purchased access are not the only part of the overall grand welcoming scheme; the Seattle Host Organization has declared open season on the minds of Seattle youth. Billionaire tycoon Bill Gates was the first to donate $25,000 to King County Schools as seed money to help develop 'free' trade curriculum that will indoctrinate students with capitalist propaganda one month before the Ministerial. He is urging wealthy others to donate $100,000 or more for this cause.

The corporate-owned press and paid-for politicians treat the WTO and global capitalism as a benign system that works for the good of humankind. Political and economic elites claim that liberalized trade or the elimination of government regulations on imports, such as tariffs, quotas, health and environmental policies, with the goal of increasing trade, supposedly leads to greater economic growth and prosperity for all. It may lead to lower prices but at a huge human environmental cost. In reality, this model has led a fierce attack on workers, undermined governments' rights to protect the environment and public health, eroded democracy and homogenized cultures. Transnational corporations in search of maximum profits move production to where costs are lowest and profits are highest. Regulations that are barriers to maximum profits are battered down or evaded by the threat of capital flight or its actuality. It is now clear that the WTO has elevated corporate power above the sovereign powers of all nation states and marginalized even further the mass majority of people on this planet who were forced into poverty by a 500 year-long process of capital accumulation and racial oppression.

Fight the Power

The first Ministerial took place in the Philippines where elites were met by fierce opposition. Shortly thereafter, People's Global Action (PGA), a coalition of radical peasant groups including the Zapatistas and others from Asia, Africa and Latin America, was formed, launching an impressive grassroots campaign against the pillars of global capitalism. When the WTO convened in Geneva last year, 30,000 labor and environmental activists along with the PGA revolted against the WTO. Anonymous members of civil society set aflame a McDonalds and Pizza Hut. Reclaim the Streets occupied the city, holding street parties throughout the nights of the conference, and PGA members peacefully blockaded the United Nations. We hope Puget Sounders will witness and be active participants in an even more spectacular showing of resistance. Shortly after the announcement was made that the WTO was coming to Seattle, progressives began meeting at the Seattle Labor Temple to organize their own welcoming committee and opposition to the WTO. The structure of the organization was established along with the initial name, Seattle Network Opposed to the WTO. National organizer, Mike Dolan from Ralph Nader's Citizen Action, announced that his organization would provide desperately needed funding and an office in downtown Seattle. Visiting activists attending the Ministerial will require accommodations, rallies and teach-ins need to be well organized, and local communities need to hear the other side of the 'free' trade story.

At the second general meeting, Ron Judd of the King County Labor Council, an AFL-CIO affiliate, gave an energizing speech calling for a General Strike in Seattle for the duration of the Ministerial.

The only other General Strike to occur in Washington State was in 1919. Judd met with the AFL leaders in D.C. on numerous occasions to discuss the possibility, but the AFL has opted for a reformist position on the WTO. Union members can protest but not strike.

Liberal groups like AFL-CIO, Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth and others, who want to influence the WTO from the inside, hold the naïve notion that the WTO can be reformed. Their position differs from People's Global Action and many activists in the Puget Sound that want nothing short of the complete eradication of the WTO and other similar organizations. Citizen Action has recently opened the office in downtown Seattle which is shared by all people, reformers and radicals alike, who feel passionately about the WTO. For this historical event, we all must share common ground.

The WTO Ministerial or the "Millenium Round" will make the history books. Hopefully, it will be a continuation of the growing resistance to the wealthy take over (WTO) of the world, such as the recent protests against the major economic powers in Cologne, Germany (see statement below).

The United Steelworkers have announced that 50,000 workers will protest the conference. The AFL, Teamsters and other unions are sending busloads of workers. The People's Global Action including the Zapatistas are leading a caravan from Central America right up I-5 through Olympia to Seattle. We need to line the freeway for a warm solidarity welcoming. Activists from around the world are flying in for this event. Hopefully, the Seattle Police will remain at bay. However, Seattle City police officer Carmen Best was quoted in Wall Street Journal (7-16-99), "We have access to pepper spray... our SWAT team is flexible."

Olympia activists have formed a group as well - the Olympia Network Opposed to the WTO: People for Fair Trade (ONO WTO). We hope to organize protests and education against the WTO before, during and after the Seattle meetings. The Labor Center at The Evergreen State College is also organizing a major education conference on the WTO, October 22nd to the 24th. ONO WTO meetings are generally held on the first or second Monday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for August 9th at 7 p.m. at Traditions in downtown Olympia. A great deal of work lies ahead, and everyone is encouraged to get involved. For further information, please contact Michael MacSems at 754-9585. •

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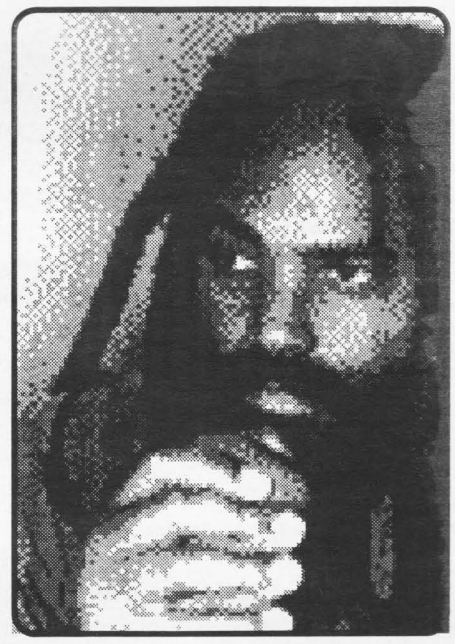
Tape Transcript of Mumia Abu-Jamal on Bill Anderson Show

Interview with Mumia



JULY 13, 1999

Mumia: Good morning, and thank YOU for allowing me to join you this morning. I wanted to thank you, Bill, and your dad, and the WHAT and WCHJ family for being so supportive. Ask your questions.

Bill Anderson: Well, plain and simple, a lot has come out over the last couple of days over alleged statements that were made several years ago. When you first heard about Mr. Bloch's statements, what was your response?

Mumia: Anger ... anger and then a kind of amusement, I mean, I laughed. Laughing, of course, was not my first reaction, I was angry and then I laughed because it's utterly ridiculous. It doesn't pass the laugh test, as they used to say about the OJ trial. How do you go from Socrates to, "Yeah, I did it." I mean it's incredible, it's not even logical. That's the point.

Bill Anderson: Did you have the type of relationship with Mr. Bloch that he claims you had?

Mumia: Well, he was an official prison visitor, that is, a member of the Pennsylvania Prison Society. These are people who can visit any prisoner in any prison in the Commonwealth, any state prison. So, I did visit with him on several occasions because I was telling him about things that were happening at Huntingdon. People were being beaten, people were being starved. It's a very vicious jail, I wrote about it in some detail in "Live From Death Row." But he was ONE among MANY, I mean the question that must come to anyone is, why HIM, who is HE? You know? And it's just patently illogical. I don't know what his motivation is, but I think we shall learn that in time. Perhaps it's his quest to have his 15 minutes of fame, I don't know and I really don't care. But I think it shows a kind of desperation on the other side. And it shows a kind of acknowledgment, in their minds at least, that people do not believe the lie that two cops forgot a confession for two months. So this is their attempt to kind of supplement that lie with another lie.

But the reality of the situation is ALL of us, everyday, are involved in struggles for our lives. We may not perceive it that way because we are caught up in this kind of consumerist corporate culture,

Bill Anderson: There has been, and again as the media gets a hold of this they have made statements that many people know not to be true, but one of the statements is that you have never stated publicly that you are innocent. Is that true?

Mumia: Well, all one has to do is, again, go through the transcript of the trial. I said that to the people who it mattered most to, not to the media, but to the JURY. I told them that at my trial, it's in the transcript, it's in writing, you don't have to believe anything I say. Look at the transcript and see what it said. Again, people will say whatever they want to say, but the record is the record.

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Bill Anderson: This person clearly is not a friend of yours.

Mumia: I would not say so, no.

Bill Anderson: OK, and that is what he is presenting. With all of this that is taking place and as long as you have been dealing with these situations, do you still maintain positive feelings about your struggle for a new trial?

Mumia: I have positive feelings about my people, about our supporters, about the need to battle and campaign for it. Do I have positive feelings about the Pennsylvania judiciary? I mean, come on, do you? Does anybody? But you do what you must, we do what we must because we understand the nature of the system. We understand that justice is not a right that is granted to people, that people must FIGHT for it, you see. And that's my reality and that's yours as well, it's all of our realities. Also ...

Bill Anderson: I'm sorry, go ahead...

Mumia: ... I just wanted to say I heard you and Mary yesterday and I had a big belly laugh. It has been about 17 or 18 years since I talked to Mary, and of course we have never had the pleasure of discussing things — you and I. But the points that she was making and the points that you were making were absolutely on key. I mean, all one has to do is use their common sense.

That's all you have to do. And, you know, why NOW?...

Bill Anderson: Um-hmmm.

Mumia: ... Ask yourself that question and then seek for that answer. I can't tell you that, I mean, I haven't heard from this guy since 1992.

Bill Anderson: One of the things that often comes up with me as we discuss this case is how you stay so focused on addressing so many other issues and continuing to write, recording the different segments on different issues, releasing statements on different injustices taking place in the country and in the world. How do you stay so focused on those issues when clearly you are in a daily struggle for your own life?

Mumia: Well, you know, aren't we all? I mean, we live in a situation... Ask yourself if the parents and cousins of Tyeisha Miller now believe that they are in a struggle for their lives. They didn't think so before what happened to their daughter happened. Ask if the family, the mother and father of Amadou Diallo, from Senegal, thought they were in a struggle for their lives. They didn't think so until what happened to their son.

But the reality of the situation is ALL of us, everyday, are involved in struggles for our lives. We may not perceive it that way because we are caught up in this kind of consumerist corporate culture, but one day Amadou Diallo was just an average guy, and the next day he was a martyr. So no one knows what today will bring, do they? And I'm involved, I guess, with movements of people around the world because we're all, we're all sharing the same life and the same breath.

Because I FEEL for those people and they feel for myself. I want to thank also my sister Pam Africa, who has been there when I could not get there, been my voice and my spirit to people who could not be close to me and talk to me. She has been on top of the game, I mean really superb.

Bill Anderson: There are a couple of people here in Philadelphia, a couple of talk show hosts here in Philadelphia, who are outspoken in opposing you and want to ask several questions. I am not going to dive into legal questions for obvious reasons, they are to be addressed by those with that legal background, but do you look forward to the opportunity to tell your side of the story if that opportunity is finally granted?

Mumia: I look forward to a NEW TRIAL, Bill. Something that .. My lawyer, Len Weinglass, was the first to say it but obviously he wasn't the first to think it ... This is a guy who taught at law school for a while, was a lawyer, has been a lawyer for perhaps 25, 30 years.... When he read the transcript and reviewed the case he said, "You haven't had a trial." And that's because all of the so-called protections and rights that this alleged constitution grants to people, it looks fine when you read it on paper, it looks great when you read it in a law book, but when you walk into a courtroom and say, "This is my right and I demand this," they look at you like you've come from Mars or from the moon. The RIGHT to self-representation, the RIGHT to examine and cross-examine witnesses, the RIGHT to have witnesses in your DEFENSE, the RIGHT to open and close to a jury. The right of SELF-representation or representation by a lawyer of your choosing. None of those are really rights. They're words on paper that like any other amendments to the constitution that have been written in there for hundreds of years, when you apply them in a courtroom you find out they are legal fictions, they don't exist.

Bill Anderson: Another thing that has come up, and Pam and I have had constant interaction with and is very quick to say, is that anybody that has questions she is happy to debate them and discuss the details of the actual case.

Mumia: Absolutely.

Bill Anderson: Have you maintained that same level, I mean obviously not the same level of accessibility, but have any of these individuals who are so outspoken in opposition to you, particularly in the media, ever reached out for you?

Mumia: No, no, they have not. No, no, no. In fact, this recent so-called now remembered confession ... I learned about it when YOU learned about it, by reading about it in the paper, hearing about it on the radio, you see. So, no, no, no, no, no ... no, no, no, no, no. We're involved in what I like to call snuff journalism, and that means a journalism that supports one side of the story to the exclusion of any other side. There is ONLY one side to them and that is the system's side, the media's side. And I mean you can see that every day. Those who have money and have power, THEY are the people that the media supports. Those who are poor and powerless, who DON'T have money, they're the potential bad guy in

(Continued next page)

(Mumia, continued)

the situation. And the reality of the situation is that the media supports power as it is structured and it doesn't support those who challenge those power elites or those power interests. It demonizes, in fact, it demonizes. Look at it this way.. if you examine critically what Phil Bloch claims, then doesn't that sound kind of diametrically opposed to what those two cops CLAIMED they heard and forgot the night of December 9, 1981. Because on the one hand they say, "Oh yeah, Mumia said, 'Yeah I shot the m.f. and I hope he dies.'" And then they have this guy come out and say "Oh yeah, do you feel any remorse", "Oh yeah, uh-huh, yeah."

I mean isn't that LEGALLY and LOGICALLY inconsistent? It can't BOTH be true, can it? You get my point?

Bill Anderson: The whole situation to those who have read it, it doesn't make a lot of sense, and as I have pointed out before, not having ever met you but reading different statements and things, that would apparently, if it was true, would be a statement from just a silly person ...

Mumia: Yeah.

Bill Anderson: ... a fool. And that was not the presentation that I had been given. WHY is it, and that's a question that comes up again and I don't know if it's for legal reasons or what have you, you write a lot of different statements, you make a lot of different statements, why haven't you addressed, even I guess with friendly media, the things that took place. Are you waiting for that legal opportunity, or ...

Mumia: I'm waiting for a NEW TRIAL. I have a right to A trial, a NEW trial. I have a right to every right that that constitution says you have, not one, not two, not a half, not an eighth, you know. Or else just declare me a non-citizen. I mean it might sound absurd but there are NO rights, there are no rights until someone tries to exercise them. Then you find out truly what rights you have. Now of course Dred Scott told us that there are NO rights that a black man has that white men are bound to respect. That was written in 1857 and we are supposedly in 1999. Those of us who know this system know that that's still the law. Well, you know, SAY IT.

Bill Anderson: Well, I hear that and we do need to go ahead and wrap it up, but it almost sounds like rather than compromise you'd be willing to pay the ultimate price. Summarize for us briefly and leave us with the messages you'd like the listening audience to have.

Mumia: Well, I thank you for asking intelligent questions and I ask everyone to ask just simple questions like this. Is it logical, does it make sense, is it consistent. That's all. Because once you ask those questions, the answers HAVE to come to you, and show that this is the latest fabrication; it is a lie standing on top of two or three other lies and it shows their sense of desperation that people don't believe their lies anymore. I thank you for this opportunity. I thank WHAT and WCHJ.

ONA MOVE, Long Live John Africa!

Bill Anderson: You stay strong.

Mumia: And you.

For more information on obtaining tapes of this interview, contact Bill Anderson at 215-581-5191 and check out http://www.mumia.org

America's Most Wanted?

Ron Jacobs

Let's get real. Kathleen Soliah (allegedly a member of the 1970s "urban guerrilla" group, the SLA, who is accused of placing bombs under police cars) should not be facing prison. Of course, Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu Jamal, and several dozen other political prisoners currently serving time in America's prisons should not be behind bars either. These folks have either served their time or were framed and should never have been behind bars in the first place, but that is a topic for another column. While the leader of this fair nation gets away with lying to the world, employing whatever public and private means at his disposal to avoid conviction for sexual abuse and abuse of power, police in California and the FBI are going after a woman who acted on her principles (something Mr. Clinton never seems to have had) back in the rebellious days of the early Seventies.

Like many others in that time, Ms. Soliah's (neé Olson) move to violence to make a political statement was the result of years of frustration with a government that was killing civilians in an overseas war, overthrowing popularly elected governments that did not want to be victims of its world order, locking up thousands of otherwise innocent citizens for smoking pot, and lying about its guilt in political matters while spying on its opponents of every political stripe. (Sound familiar?) The mass movements opposing these actions did not seem to be working and those of us who hadn't given up and gone off to make money or get so fucked up we didn't care were getting more radical and more desperate.

From this milieu came the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA). Never more than a dozen or so people, this group killed an Oakland school superintendent, kidnapped heiress Patty Hearst and demanded and received a ransom of several million dollars in food to be distributed to the poor of the San Francisco Bay Area, went on a robbery spree in California which ended when six of its members were killed by hundreds of law enforcement agents in the Compton area of Los Angeles—killings broadcast live on television. Some new leftists—among them the Oakland Black Panthers—were convinced the SLA was a set-up by America's secret police. The Panthers had plenty of circumstantial evidence linking the SLA's "field commander" Cinque (Donald DeFreeze) to various California and federal police intelligence agencies to back up their charge. Others on the left, mostly other groups involved in armed propaganda such as the Weather Underground, supported the SLA, stating that they "refused to do the state's work" and renounce the SLA.

It is these men and their ilk, including latter day presidents Reagan, Bush, and Clinton, who should be appearing on America's Most Wanted, not Ms. Soliah and her fellow former radical Mr. Kilgore.

No matter what, the SLA made the news in 1973 and 1974, even involving some close acquaintances of basketball star Bill Walton (and perhaps Walton himself) in kidnap-victim-turned-revolutionary Patti Hearst's flight after the killings in LA. Hearst was eventually captured and, in her last defiant gesture, stated her occupation as urban guerrilla during her preliminary interrogation following the arrest. Now she is married to her former bodyguard and prefers not to talk about her days as Tania—the name she borrowed from Che's companion and made her own during her membership in the SLA. Other surviving members are now living around the country and two remain in prison.

Meanwhile, those men who were running this country then have been resuscitated as national heroes and statesmen. Who can forget the nauseating paeans to the mass-murderer and wannabe dictator Richard Nixon during ceremonies marking his death? How often is the modern television news watcher subjected to the imperial wisdom of his fellow Christmas bomber and friend of fascists around the world, Henry Kissinger? It is these men and their ilk, including latter day presidents Reagan, Bush, and Clinton, who should be appearing on America's Most Wanted, not Ms. Soliah and her fellow former radical Mr. Kilgore.

Ron Jacobs is the author of The Way The Wind Blew (Verso Books), *which chronicles 60s activism.* •

A Benefit for Big Mountain featuring local indigenous women poets

by Jenn Bowman and Venedel Herbito

In 1974 the U.S. Government legally endorsed genocide when Congress passed Public Law 93-531, which enabled Peabody Coal Company to strip mine Black Mesa by ripping the traditional Navajo and Hopi peoples from their land.

A Benefit for Big Mountain

featuring local indigenous women poets

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• Chrystos, prison, lesbian, and indigenous rights activist

• Current Video Interviews with Dine Elders

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The case of Big Mountain, Arizona (Black Mesa region) is one of the most current and vivid examples of the continuing genocide and colonization that marks the history of indigenous peoples on these lands known today as the "United States."

The present exploitation occurring is the strip mining of Black Mesa located near the sacred Four Corners region in northeastern Arizona by Peabody Coal Company. Here lies the largest coal deposit in the United States, andpossibly the world, holding approximately 21 billion tons of coal with an estimated value of $100 billion. Peabody Coal is determined to *cash in* and expand their strip mining operation regardless of the consequences of forced relocated facing the Dineh (Navajo), traditional indigenous peoples of that region. Preventing such an operation is the continuing resistance by the Dine Elders and the support of outsiders.

Peabody Coal's strip mining operation at Black Mesa runs the only operating slurry line in the United States. For nearly 30 years, the slurry line for Peabody Coal's strip mining operation has pumped 1 billion gallons of water from the Black Mesa aquifer, the sole water source for the Hopi and Navajo peoples of the region. Within these past 3 decades, the irreversible environmental devastation has caused groundwater levels todecrease significantly, drying up the wells and springs the drinking water for the Hopi and Dine- and altering the general ecology of Black Mesa, i.e., eroding the land and eliminating the vegetation of the region.

Despite clear evidence of Peabody's role and economic investment in the region, the current situation at Big Mountain is being reported by the mainstream media as a "centuries old inter-ethnic" dispute between the Dine and Hopis. Traditionally, both indigenous peoples co-existed in this area peacefully, sharing and exchanging the richness of their lands and cultures with each other. But today, profit-hungry companies are eager for the black gold that awaits them in this region.

Please join us in September! to support the resistance of the Dine Elders because as traditional Dine elder and resistor Roberta Blackgoat explains, "The coal is the liver of the earth. When you take it out, she dies."

References: "The Black Mesa Syndrome: Indian Lands, Black Gold" by Judith Nies http://www.orionsociety.org

(Tree Village, continued)

permanently protect both areas. A 17-minute video has been produced that gives background on Plum Creek, and puts the land exchange into context with the federal Railroad Land Grants of the 1860s. Most of Plum Creek's land was "inherited" from railroad companies. Although required by the Act to offer their lands up to the public through open auction, these companies fraudulently transferred them from corporation to corporation, ending with Plum Creek. (Copies of the video are available by leaving a message at 867-9054). A second video about the treesit is in the making!

The CDN and the Gifford Pinchot Task Force gained a victory recently, when the official exchange of the deeds was put off for two more months, after Marbled Murrelets were discovered in a separate area that was to be traded to Plum Creek.

The tree village has given the campaign to save Watch Mt. and Fossil Creek some very positive mainstream media exposure. An exclusive story with the *Seattle Times* made the front page on Wednesday, July 21st, complete with big color photos and maps, and more column-inches than the search for JFK Jr's body. (*The Olympian* however, somehow managed to mix up the facts, even though they got their story directly off the AP wire.)

This campaign is here to stay, and we can use all the help we can get. Local businesses have been very generous with food and gear donations, but we are still in need of bulk food, sweets, fruits and veggies, canned goods, video cameras, large water containers, giant pots and pans, tarps, and most camping and climbing gear. To find out how you can help or donate, leave a message at 867-9054.

All are welcome to come and visit our basecamp; feel free to stop by any time. Coming up on August 9th or 10th, it is VERY LIKELY that the Forest Service will attempt to evict us and even lay seige on the treesits. This would be a great time to come and support the efforts to Stop the Land Exchange! For information on rides or carpools, call Kassey at 866-7344. Please leave alcohol, drugs, and pets at home. People visiting the basecamp can expect to find: lots of food, hikes through old-growth forest, singing and music, lively discussion around the campfire, interesting chats with the Forest Service law enforcement officers, various workshops, and a community where newcomers are welcome. SEE YOU IN THE FOREST! •

Cove/Mallard and Otter-Wing: Alive and Kicking

Natalie Shapiro, Josh Burnim, and Jonathon Crowell

The Beauty and Ecological Importance

Imagine a land of enchantment. A place where wild wonders still roam. A place so large that you can lose your soul; so intimate that you will breath life. . . Cove/Mallard and Otter-Wing are two places where a human, if they could, would turn into a tree and live with the harmony and peace of the Rocky Mountains. Unless immediate action is taken, this land will be lost and we will only have our imaginations to relive the memories.

Less than four percent of the native forests remain in the continental United States; twenty percent of these lie in the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem (GSSE). The GSSE, consisting of the Selway Bitterroot, Frank Church-River of No Return, Gospel Hump Wilderness Areas and surrounding National Forest lands in Idaho and Montana, comprise a crucial intact wild ecosystem. The GSSE is home to threatened and endangered species, centuries-old trees, the two longest undammed rivers in the country (Salmon and Selway rivers) and the Cove/Mallard and Otter-Wing timber sales, some of the most outrageous timber sales in the history of public land management.

Cove/Mallard lies at the heart of the three connected wilderness areas and provides an essential biological corridor for migrating species.

The Urgency

Cove/Mallard lies at the heart of the three connected wilderness areas and provides an essential biological corridor for migrating species. The 77,000 acre Cove and Mallard roadless areas are temporarily saved from massive roadbuilding and logging because of the 18-month roadbuilding moratorium implemented by US Forest Service Chief Michael Dombeck in February, 1999.

However, to skirt the roadbuilding moratorium, the Forest Service is "chipping away" at Cove/Mallard by using existing roads. A current proposal called the Dixie Fuel Fire Break Project, would log part of the Cove roadless area (the first unit of the Rhett Timber Sale) and build a three mile fire break in this roadless area as a fire protection scheme.

It is also important to remember that Cove/Mallard is not permanently protected from the huge timber sales that have been ravaging it for the past seven years. There are six remaining timber sales to go under the Cove/Mallard Environmental Impact Statement. We have no idea how the permanent roadless plan will affect Cove/Mallard, but we do know that the local timber mill wants that timber bad! We need to make sure that the permanent roadless policy prohibits logging in Cove/Mallard and provides restoration work for the three sales that have already been logged.

The nearby 50,000 Wing Creek-Twenty Mile roadless area is not affected by the moratorium. It contains the Otter-Wing and Mackey Day timber sales and is directly adjacent to the Gospel Hump Wilderness. Since it was sold before the roadless moratorium took effect, it is not protected under that provision. The South Fork of the Clearwater River, a key spawning ground for steelhead trout, is downstream from these timber sales. The area is so steep and wild that human disturbances have been limited until recently. This area has been the focus of our direct action campaign since last summer.

Multiple Fronts to Protect Wild Areas

The Cove/Mallard Coalition is famous for its non-violent direct action and road blocking techniques. The seven-year Cove/Mallard field campaign is the longest running direct action effort in defense of our National Forests. Tactics range from intricate road blockade structures to tree-sits.

Base Camp is the gathering place for activists seeking to protect the Big Wild. This 20-acre piece of privately-owned land, 13 miles north of the mighty Salmon River, provides opportunities to learn various activist and homesteading skills. Nature provides splendid feasts: mushrooms, huckleberry and strawberry leaves for salads, pine needle tea, kinnicknick for delighful smokes, and luscious berries in the late summer. Nestled at the edge of the Cove roadless area, one can get literally lost in pristine beauty.

Another component of our campaign is our timber sale monitoring program, which involves field checking past, current and future timber sales for compliance with environmental laws and logging contracts. Monitoring in Otter-Wing this past summer exposed several road problems which casused the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to visit the sale. During this visit, which we had instigated but to which we were not invited, a two-mile spur road that went through a very wet area was canceled.

We also uncovered many violations in the Jack timber sale (cut in 1997) in the Cove/Mallard area, such as inadequate stream "no cut" buffers, illegally cut trees, cutting in Goshawk habitat, inadequate protection of old growth and road failures. While obviously discovering these violations is too late to save the Jack area, we use this information as evidence against future timber sales. A monitoring report with 104 pictures will be used for lobbying in Washington DC against logging of our National Forests.

Our stream sediment monitoring program, organized by our hydrologist, documents the increase in sediment in streams important for bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, steelhead, and Chinook salmon. The Forest Service is required to do this but does so too infrequently to be very useful.

Our "multiple fronts" strategy has been highly successful for Cove/Mallard. Roadbuilding and cutting operations were marked for completion by 1997, but after nine years and seven years of direct action, the operation is only 20-25% completed!

The Lawsuit

A coalition of environmentalists filed a lawsuit against the Otter-Wing and Mackey Day timber sales earlier this year. Some of the issues in the lawsuit are: logging and roadbuilding upstream of threatened steelhead and bull trout habitat; failing to do new environmental analysis — the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is ten years old; and failing to do analysis of impacts of the sales on species that have been designated "sensitive" since the EIS was written.

However, strong as the lawsuit is, it doesn't have much of a chance in US District Court; the judges virtually always rule in favor of the Forest Service. We have more of a chance at the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, but that won't happen until this fall. At that point all the trees may be cut if other means do not stall them.

Science Corrupted

To combat our exposures of agency corruption, the Forest Service has adopted its own "science": Forest Health and Ecosystem Management. When the Forest Service's wildlife biologist was asked how he felt about logging in the Wing Creek-Twenty Mile roadless area, he replied that there is too much old

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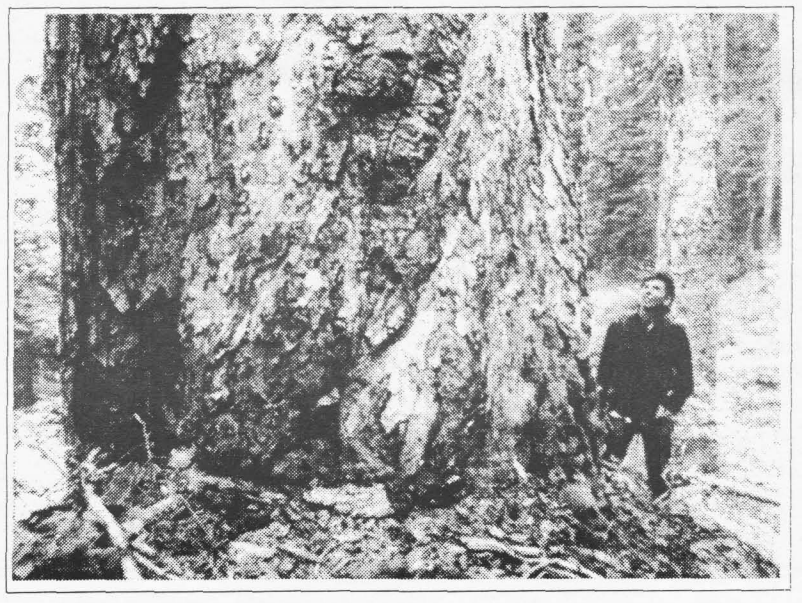

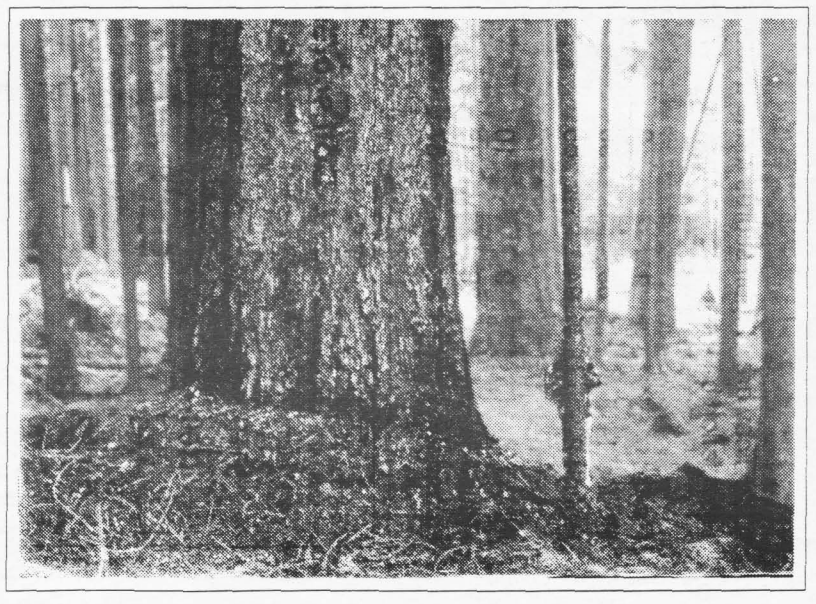

(Cove/Mallard, continued)

growth there and not enough young forest ("early seral species") for species such as lynx and elk. "Clearcuts are grocery stores for elk," he said, and added that wildlife like walking on roads as much as we do.

One of the more outrageous disregards for the law was roadbuilding and logging last summer before consultation over steelhead and bull trout was completed. Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Forest Service is required to consult with other agencies regarding possible impacts to species listed under the ESA — n this case, steelhead and bull trout.

One of the requirements of the consultation was that the Forest Service must complete a Biological Assessment for the South Fork of Clearwater River prior to logging activities. This was not completed until AFTER roadbuilding and logging were well underway. With the completion of consultation the agencies agreed that sediment could be added to the South Fork of the Clearwater if other restoration prjects were done elsewhere to decrease the total sediment to htis river. Interestingly, they have not completed the restoration projects, yet they are roadbuilding and logging.

The Locals

Getting along with the locals can be quite a challenge. Last summer during a tree-sit in Otter-Wing, the tree-sit support camp was raided one night by drunks carrying guns who burned peoples' gear. However, on a positive note, conversations with loggers suggest we have something in common. Several loggers have told us they didn't like logging these wild untouched areas, but what else were they going to do? They gripe that they work hard in the woods, have to deal with us, and get paid nil compared to the top executives. They get angry talking about companies people work hard for that close up shop and move elsewhere to gain larger profits.

With this in mind, activists have been trying to build alliances with the logging community. It's very simple. We just talk. One activist made a point of frequently visiting Dixie, the local logging town, to chat with people. While at first, she got cold stares, eventually they warmed up to her. She found out that many of them were tired of hating their neighbors up the hill and wanted to get together and talk. "Not about logging," she said, "but about community." Apparently community was important to Dixie, enough so that some people were willing to at least talk to the hated Earth First!ers.

Look What Idaho's Big Wild has to Offer You

Idaho is an opportunity to learn many valuable activist skills: how to conduct pre and post timber sale monitoring; stream and sediment monitoring; climbing skills; legal research; office and outreach coordinating; how to live a low-impact life; and how to live in a cooperative community. Empowering other people is one of the trademarks of the Cove/Mallard Coalition.

Come to Idaho and experience for yourself the magical Big Wild! But don't be surprised if you fall in love and never leave!

For more information: Cove/Mallard Coalition POB 8968 Moscow, ID 83843 (208)882-9755 cove@moscow.com •

PCUN/Oregon Farmworker Update

Campaign for Labor Rights

TWO SIDES OF THE STRUGGLE

In previous alerts on the Oregon farmworker struggle, Campaign for Labor Rights has focused on the boycott against NORPAC products - and the wages and conditions which gave rise to that boycott. In the fall, we will be taking the boycott back to campuses all across the U.S., with an exciting new strategy for pressuring the NORPAC growers.

This alert focuses on the other side of this struggle: the actions taken by farmworkers themselves, in conjunction with the Oregon farmworker union, PCUN. This side of the struggle is most intense during the growing and harvesting summer months that are the quietest for the boycott campaign. However, the boycott of NORPAC products (FLAV-R-PAC, Westpac and Santiam) has strengthened the hand of farmworkers. Even lacking a contract with any of the NORPAC growers, farmworkers are able to demand - and often to win - concessions from the growers, who always have to look over their shoulders at the specter of further loss of profits because of the boycott campaign.

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This alert includes a letter from the workers in one of the 10 labor / residential camps owned by the Kraemers, one of the biggest grower families in the NORPAC group. It also includes an action request, for you to the Kraemers in support of the workers' letter.

KRAEMER WORKERS CALL FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO LABOR CAMP AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Below is the second letter that the workers at Kraemer Farms have written, this time signed by 32 residents of the "trailer." The letter outlines the specific changes they want to see in the camp and in the fields.

Workers have been taking their complaints public ever since they began organizing. On July 13th, the workers gave a delegation of more than 25 religious leaders and laity a tour of their living conditions in the "trailer." They showed the supporters the improvements: four new sinks, three new shower heads, cages over lights, two replaced doors, and four replaced beds. Supporters, both locally on delegations and nationally, have responded to previous workers' calls for support in letters and calls to the Kraemers. This support has been instrumental in pressuring the Kraemers to respect the workers' requests.

However, the changes at the camp are slow, and workers point out that most of their complaints have not been addressed. While the workers were encouraged to see new doors put in on the day that the news cameras arrived, they demand more than superficial changes. Workers remain dedicated to their original requests for more significant changes, and again they are calling for national support for their organizing.

THE WORKERS' LETTER TO THE KRAEMERS

July 16, 1999

We, the occupants of the labor camp known as "the trailer" (owned by the Kraemers), wish to communicate with the public that since our first letter (June 28) to grower and camp-owner Ken Kraemer, some of the requested improvements have been made, but the changes are still insufficient.

Another port-a-potty was brought in, and two new doors were installed.

New showers have been installed (now there are six), but there is not enough space in the shower room for six people to bathe at once.

There is not enough hot water—for bathing or washing clothes.

There is no light in the shower room.

The food is still inadequate and substandard.

We demand that the following changes be made:

• that a fully-equipped kitchen be available to workers

• with enough stoves and refrigerators and everything else necessary so that we can cook for ourselves and don't have to buy food

• that 4 public telephones be installed

• that mattresses be brought for the beds (which are still a thin piece of carpet over plywood)

• that the bathroom floor be cleaned and fixed, and that rugs be brought in

• • that washing machines be installed

• that the beds and walls be painted

• that there be benches outside where we can sit

• that there be a schedule so that we know where we will work the next day

• that there be television with cable

• that they construct a ball-playing area

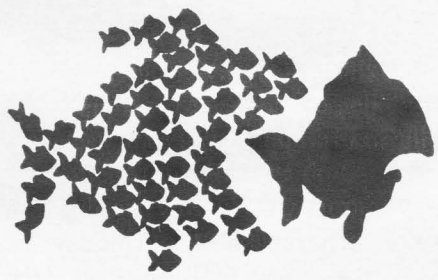
• that they clean the bathrooms and the inside more regularly, and not just once a week

• that in the fields, they mark the actual hour that we start working not an hour or more after, as they are doing now

• heater in the trailer

We also want PCUN and their representatives to have free access to the camp. The grower continues to try to put pressure on us because we have demanded changes. Every time that PCUN shows up with supporters to see the living conditions in which we live, the camp operators call the police.

Last Wednesday we were given papers in the fields (which said at what price we were going to be paid in the blackberry), and we were told to sign these papers. We are sure that the majority of people that signed didn't know what they were signing. Many signed



because they were told that if they didn't sign, they should leave the field and they wouldn't have work. We know that many of us don't know how to read, and we felt pressured to sign the paper for fear of being fired. We are not in agreement with the low price that they say that they will pay us.

Although some conditions have improved, we see that there still remains a lot of work to be done. For this reason we are demanding that the growers continue to improve the "trailer" and that the public continue to put pressure on the growers to make these changes, because without your support, no one will listen to us.

Signed by 32 workers and residents at Kraemer Farms

ACTION REQUEST:

Write to the Kraemers. Please copy, sign and mail the following letter to the Kraemers.

Kraemer Farms
13318 Dominic Road NE
Mt. Angel, OR 97362

Dear members of the Kraemer family:

Thirty-two residents of your camp which is known as "the trailer" wrote to you on July 16 to request changes in their living and working situation. Their requests are modest. After all, "the trailer" is their home during the working season. They ought to have living conditions fit for human beings. Also, their rights as workers need to be respected, including the right to have access to union representatives and the right to work under fair and honest contractual terms. You should comply with the requests in their letter.

When farmworkers in Oregon organize for their rights, they often face discriminatory practices, eviction from company housing, firing, threats and outright violence. Due the economic power of growers such as yourselves, farmworkers often find only more injustice at the hands of law enforcement personnel.

Oregon farmworkers are not alone. A concerned public all across the United States has been moved by their plight and by their courage in standing up for their rights. I will respect PCUN's boycott of NORPAC products (FLAV-R-PAC, Westpac and Santiam) until I hear that you and the other NORPAC growers have bargained a fair contract with the workers.

Sincerely,

NAME:

ADDRESS:

For more information, contact PCUN (Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste - Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United)
<farmworkerunion@pcun.org>
(503) 982-0243
<www.pcun.org> •

Texas Governor Bush Vetoes Civil Rights Bill to Provide Lawyers to Poor

Elizabeth Alexander

WASHINGTON-- Sunday, June 20th 1999 will be remembered as the day that Governor George W. Bush stood at the courthouse door to block long overdue reform of the state's system for providing lawyers for poor people accused of crime.

By vetoing a major civil rights bill unanimously passed by the Texas Legislature to effect that reform, Governor Bush says that poor people should be treated like second—or even third—class citizens in our criminal justice system.

The governor's action is neither compassionate nor conservative—for what could be more compassionate than ensuring that poverty does not guarantee a prison sentence, and what could be more conservative than adhering to the Constitutional guarantee of the right to a fair and speedy trial.

For more than a decade, lawsuits, press reports, and investigations conducted by the State Bar of Texas have repeatedly documented instances of deplorable representation throughout the state. According to the Spangenberg Group, the nation's most experienced investigators of indigent defense, the state's system for providing lawyers to poor people who are accused of crime is the only one of its kind in the entire nation. Under the Texas system, state judges—who run for office every four years—spend local tax money on any lawyer they choose for each individual case. It is nothing less than cronyism run rampant.

...lawsuits, press reports, and investigations conducted by the State Bar of Texas have repeatedly documented instances of deplorable representation throughout the state.

At the behest of Senator Rodney Ellis, the Texas Legislature has considered proposals to reform indigent defense at least since 1993. In 1998, Texas's House of Representatives conducted an interim study that recommended reform. This year, Senator Ellis again introduced reform legislation. Following testimony at a public hearing, the Senate Criminal Jurisprudence Committee unanimously approved the bill. Next, the entire Senate and House passed the bill without objection by a member of either political party.

The ACLU deplores this decision by Governor Bush. Because of his veto, each time a lawyer sleeps during his client's trial, each time a lawyer meets his client for the first time 15 minutes before a hearing only to urge the client to plead guilty so that the judge can clear his trial calendar and the lawyer can turn a quick profit, each time a poor person waits months in jail before first seeing a lawyer, and each time a judge demands a campaign contribution from a lawyer in exchange for appointments, it will be on Governor Bush's record, and should be on his conscience.

Elizabeth Alexander is the director of A.C.L.U.'s National Prison Project.

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Books to Prisoners August Events

• Open drop in work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm in the back of the business formerly known as Bulldog News. *Training takes 1 hour. Once you are trained you can work anytime we are open.*

• **BTP Volunteer Potluck** - 3rd Sun. of the month (Aug15th), 3 pm at 116 E. 4th Ave, Olympia

• Turn in Bayview and Ralph's receipts. B to P receives 1%. Please send to the address below.

• **Save UPC code from Western Family Products &** send to B to P, 116 E 4th Ave, Olympia, WA 98501

"Thanks" and Good News from Books to Prisoners

Books to Prisoners

Thank you to Bayview and Ralph's Thriftway, grocery stores owned and operated by Stormans Inc. and to all the fantastic people who contribute their receipts to Books to Prisoners for the on percent rebate program. It really gives our meager basic operational budget a boost. Proceeds are used for rent, postage, xeroxing, tape and wrapping paper—all essential for the project.

Especially thanks also to our faithful receipt tallyperson, Elsie, aka "Fairy Godmother, who didn't even let a broken foot keep her from her commitment of helping Books to Prisoners.

Together we broke our record this quarter with $193.62 from grocery receipts. Wow! Thanks everyone.

Editorial Note: Books to Prisoners still needs everyone's help during this time of uncertainty. If you have a little trouble connecting with them, please do not give up. The need for this organization in prisons has never been greater and Books to Prisoners does such good work.

Best wishes to all Books to Prisoners volunteers and donators.

Your Help Is Needed

Because of the huge number of letters Books for Prisoners-Olympia Support Group receives each month and its limited resources, requests often wait many months to be filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generousity are urgently needed.

If we desire individuals in this country's prisons to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic, then we too need to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic. We need to "walk the talk." Please donate your time, money or books.

In greatest demand are:

English, Spanish/English, Southeast Asian dictionaries, thesaurus, new almanaces, and GED books.

Frequently requested are:

African-American, Chicano/Latino, and Native American history and progressive U.S. history.

Please donate:

• Any other good books

• Stamps and stamp money

• Money for tape, wrapping paper, and copying

Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoner-Olympia office at the business formerly known as Bulldog New at 116 4th Ave in downtown Olympia

Please make checks payable to Books to Prisoners.

Hours: Currently, the business hours are from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm daily. After hours donations possible by appointment. Please call the message phone below and leave a message.

Address: Books to Prisoners , 116 4th Ave, Olympia WA 98501

Message Phone: (360)943-2375

YOU CAN SPONSOR A SUBSCRIPTION TO A PRISONER
SEE PAGE 2 OR 7

LEFT BANK BOOKS COLLECTIVE
A Not-For-Profit Bookstore & Distribution Service Owned & Operated by its Workers
92 Pike Street, Seattle WA 98101
Tel & Fax: (206) 622-0195
-- Online catalog at --
http://www.leftbankbooks.com/

Inmates — All correspondence to Books to Prisoners *must* go through the main branch:

Books to Prisoners
Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street
Seattle WA 98101

Books To Prisoner Page

ACLU shorts

Ohio Censoring Death Row Inmates

The A.C.L.U. of Ohio is seeking to overturn a corrections department regulation that would effectively silence condemned inmates during their final moments.

The regulation, which governs the conduct of executions at the Southern Ohio Correctional facility in Lucasville, would require death row inmates to submit their last words to the warden in writing six hours before execution. The warden could then, at his sole option, read some, none, or all of the inmate's dying statement to the press following the execution.

Gruesome Electric Chair Execution

The A.C.L.U. of Florida called on Gov. Jeb Bush to halt all executions until officials can ensure that they can be conducted humanely and until greater fairness and due process in the imposition of death sentences can be assured.

The execution of Allen Lee "Tiny" Davis in July caused blood to pour from his mouth and ooze from his chest as he was hit with 2,300 volts. Davis is the first prisoner to die in the electric chair that replaced "Old Sparky."

Connecticut Improves Public Defence System

The American Civil Liberties Union and its Connecticut affiliate announced the resolution of its class-action lawsuit against the State of Connecticut for failing to provide the public defender system with sufficient funding.

Under this historic settlement, the staff of the public defender system will increase, the rates of compensation paid to special public defenders will double, and the public defender system will substantially enhance the training, supervision and monitoring of its attorneys. Because of these changes, which will become final upon approval by the Connecticut Superior Court, the ACLU agreed to withdraw its lawsuit.

As a result of these improvements, attorney caseloads declined by approximately 40%.

The case was filed at a time when public defender systems nationwide were seeing their budgets slashed amid a general hostility toward the rights of the poor, a situation the American Bar Association characterized as "national crisis of extraordinary proportions."

Briefs & Announcements, cont.

fundraiser **August 14th (all day) 506 Plymouth St SW; Olympia**. CLIP is seeking donations of quality used goods to sell. If you have something to donate please call 956-9235 or bring them to the sale. CLIP is WROC, Tenants Union, TULIP, Enterprise for Equity, Sound Exchange.

Stop-The-Bombing Vigils

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation (and many other folks) hold weekly vigils against the bombings and the sanctions against Iraq downtown across from Percival Landing (at the fountain) on **Fridays from 4:30-5:30pm**.

Bring a sign! Bring your voice! Bring some creativity!

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition

WROC's planning and organizing meetings take place the **first Tuesday of each month from 5:30pm until 8pm at First United Methodist Church**, 5th and Boundary, downtown. WROC's support and information meeting is the third Tuesday of the month at Evergreen Vista Apartments, on the West Side of Olympia. Dinner and free childcare are provided at all meetings, and people can call 352-9716 for more info.

Tenants' Union

Come and learn your rights as a tenant on the **second Monday (July 12th) of each month starting at 6pm in the downtown Olympia Library.** This is free public clinic. Also a meeting will follow and you will find out how to volunteer for the organization. For more information call 956-9235.

Dance O' Dance

Open invitation from "Dance O' Dance" to any age, any style dancers to appear LIVE on public-access television in Thurston county. This hour-long program by and for dancers is taped on the fourth Wednesday of each month and re-runs every Wednesday at 4pm & Friday at 10pm on channel 29. "Dance O' Dance" is in its fourth season on TCTV.

Upcoming shows will be on August 25th & September 22nd. Dancers should arrive at TCTV studio "A", 440 Yauger way, off Mud Bay, by 2PM for instructions, warm-ups, & refreshments. Contact the producer for more details: Justin B. Wright, 753-9665, or e-mail <justinb@writeme.com>

Freedom Socialist Party National Convention. Friday-Monday, September 3-6, 1999 at the Longhouse, Evergreen State College, Olympia. Start the 21st century with a fresh perspective by attending the FSP National Convention. Convention-goers will grapple with how best to fulfill the challenge that African Amercian revolutionary Mumia Abu-Jamal issued to Evergreen's 1999 graduating class—to live in "opposition to the deadening status quo." Milestone discussion topics to include: eyewitness account of Canadians opposing rightward turn by New Democrats and Australian workers best the wharf bosses; Russians battle market-induced misery; lessons from the socialist feminist campaign trail in five states; people of color, immigrants, women, youth and queers spark militancy from union organizing to fighting fascists; and the urgent need for international left cooperation. Join us for a weekend of dynamic analysis aimed at building a movement to replace decrepit capitalism with the shared abundance of socialism! Registration opens Th. Sept. 2 at 4pm and 9am daily thereafter. Cost is $35.00 for 4 days or $10 per day; FSP and RW members are $30.00. On site childcare must be arranged before Aug. 15 with FSP National Office. For more info, call 206/722-2453 or Email <fspnatl@igc.org>.

Peace & Justice Organizer Full-Time Job In Seattle

The Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) will hire an experienced Organizer to strengthen and support the efforts of FOR members and chapeter throughout Western Washington. The Organizer will also manage the Seattle office, recruit volunteers, and provide administrative support. The FOR is pacificist, mult-issue and broadly interfaith, with an 80-year history of principled, nonviolent action for peace and social justice. Flexible salary/benefits package based on $1,365/month for average 35 hours/week. Information and application packet: (206) 789-5565. Completed applications due Sept. 20. Start approximately Dec. 1. Local information source is Glen Anderson, 491-9093.

Bread and Roses Community Members Wanted

We are 4 (and 3 cats living in a Catholic Worker, intentional community that works with homeless folks (however we are of varying spiritual beliefs). We run a shelter, soup kitchen and family center. Decisions are based on consensus, non-violent actions and social justice.

Our Mission:

Bread and Roses is a cooperative, compassionate, intentional community striving to live by the Catholic Worker philosophy of hospitality. We do this by providing, and helping others to provide, the basic human needs of food, shelter, and dignity to those who lack these.

We strive to be a role model for society in which we:

- individually take personal responsibility to serve others
- collectively establish non-violent and socially just relationships
- individually and collectively nurture growth of and develop on another in personhood

We are looking for someone who is dedicated to working with people in crisis situations, and with diverse groups of people. This includes children and people of varying ethnicities, sexual preferences and religious/spiritual beliefs. PEOPLE OF COLOR ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY! Bilingual a plus. We offer free room and a living stipend. Queer friendly. Vegetarian/Vegan diets welcome.

Contact us at:
Bread and Roses
1320 8th AVE SE
Olympia, WA 98501
(360)754-4085

Candidate Info Wanted

Works In Progress is planning to do a spread on the voting records of those Olympia Council Members who are seeking re-election this fall.

I am interested in any issues which you or your organization has followed and what the position of Stan Biles, Mark Foutch or Laura Ware is/was concerning it. Include a brief explanation of the issue. There really is no limit to what the issue could be about, and WIP will make every attempt to include all information you may supply. Also, let me know if you or your group has or will endorse these candidates.

My goal is to create a Game Card for each with their likeness on the front and their "stats" on the back. WIP will print these in the October issue along with an article exploring in-depth the issues listed on the backs of the cards.

Information is needed by September 15th on these candidates or any of the other folks that will be running in opposition to them.

Thanks, Pat Tassoni
P.O. Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507
360/705-2726 or wip@olywa.net

MY DESIRE FOR WHOLENESS

by Angela C. Cameron (aka "Ecolady")

Wholeness is . . .

my desire for the fullness of God, the fullness of Love.

I must want it, dream it, envision it, and ultimately will it.

I will do what I can to understand it, teach it, value it, and ultimately participate in it.

I know that wholeness is the balance, the magic, the bliss, and ultimately the divine dream for all.

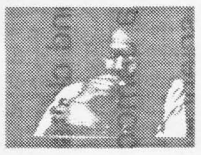
I am aware that I must embrace it, share it, shine it, and ultimately become it.

Because Wholeness is my journey to true love, as my guide, and ultimately my destiny.

Wholeness is . . . the glory of love and I desire it at any price!

Get your very own poster!

Everyone Deserves a Fair Trial



Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

These are *the* authentic posters previously printed in the pages of *Works In Progress*.

*** 11 x17 for *Mumia***
*** 22 x 34 for *No War***
= Act now and get a 11x17 size *Stop The Sanctions on Iraq* poster absolutely free with purchase of *No War*

Send $1 for one or $1.50 for both to :

WIP PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507

(Sorry no COD's. Allow one week for delivery)

Get yours today!

NO WAR

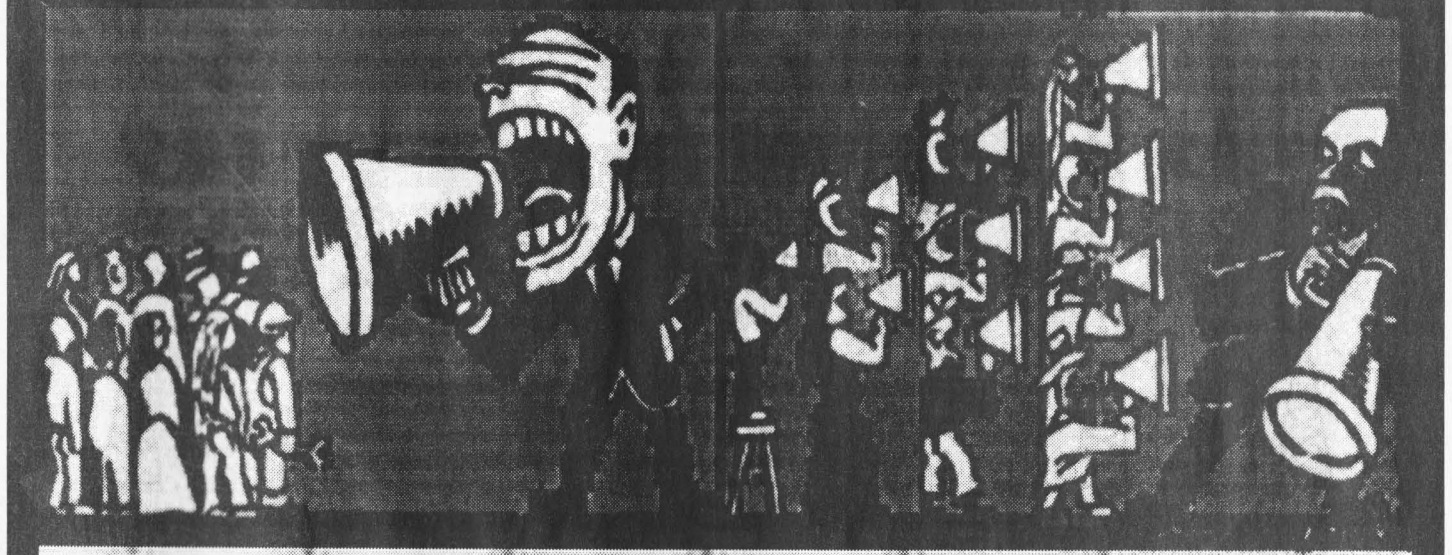
BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE!

SEE PAGE 2

WORKS IN PROGRESS

AUGUST 1999 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | FREE

The movement to democratize the tools of communication



cover by Alice Zillah

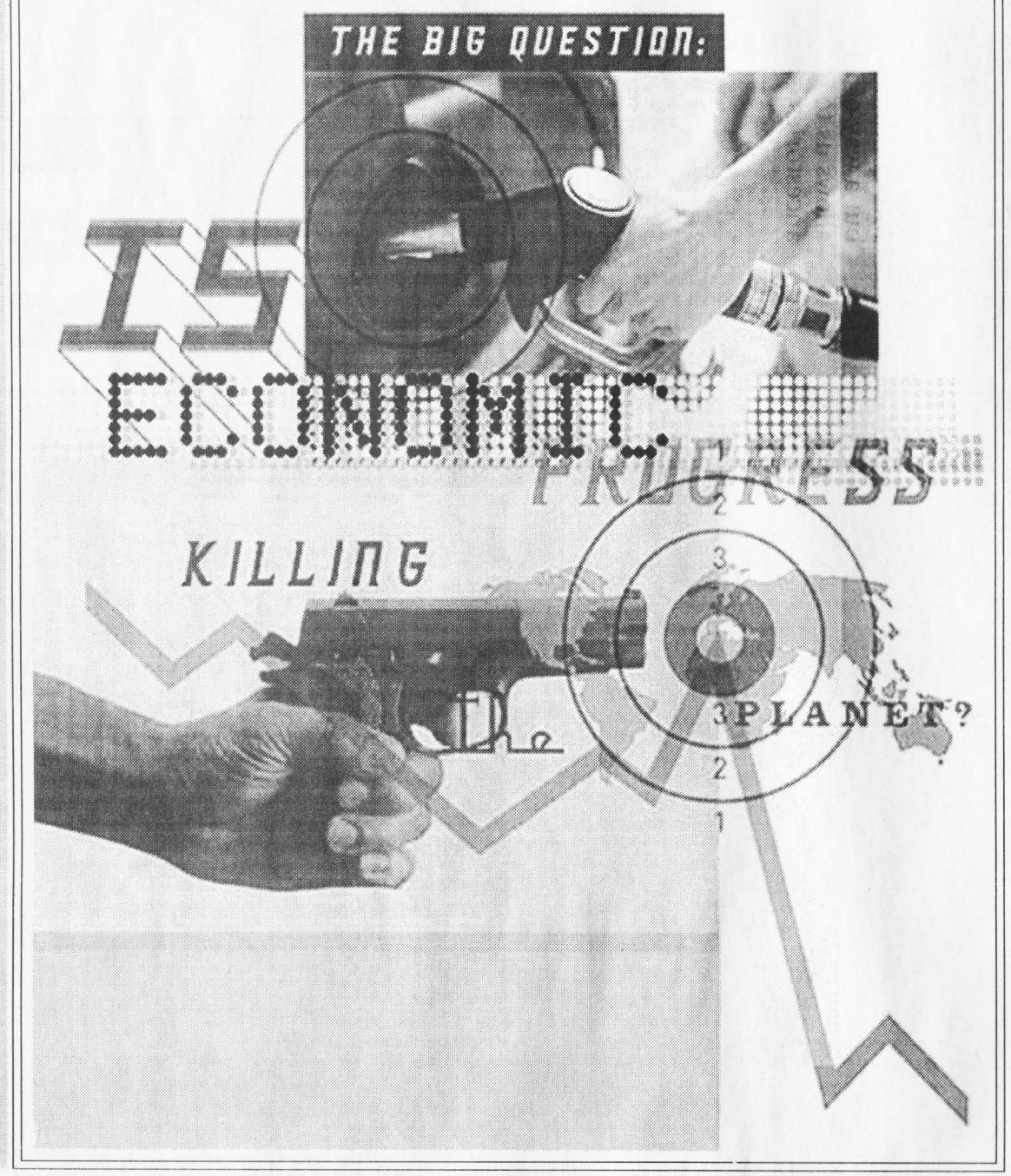
1 Olympia's Cable Agreement & Tele-Democracy Initiative In Olympia + Tree Village- South Of Olympia

4 Along The Color Line The Power Of Non-Violent Protest

7 Book Review Women Take *Notes*

8 Organizing Against The WTO

10 Interview With Mumia



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